

# WRIGHT STATE

## UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5  
ISSUE 1  
FALL 2015

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alumna nan whaley shapes dayton's future

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Fall 2015 Volume 5 Issue 1

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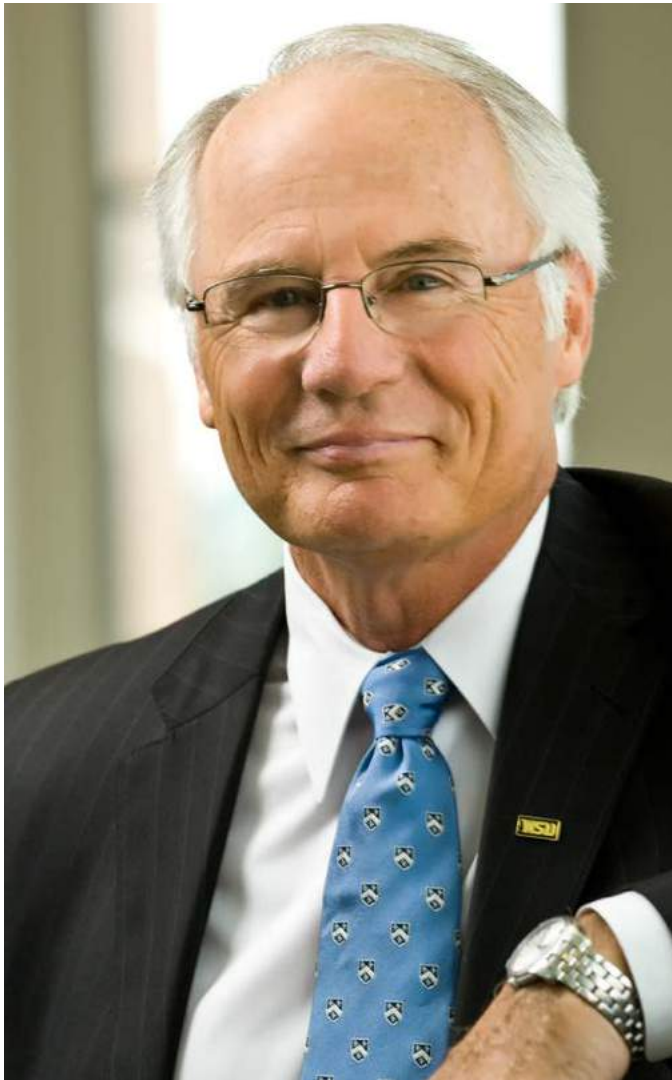
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Welcome to this issue of *Wright State University Magazine*.

As a new academic year gets under way, we eagerly await the transition from the hot, humid, and—uncharacteristically for Ohio—rainy days of summer to the crisp air of fall. But this year, our campus will be transformed by more than just the beautiful colors of the autumn leaves. Two new landmark buildings are now a permanent part of the Wright State landscape.

In April, we opened the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building, the first facility of its kind to bring neuroscientists, engineers, and clinicians under the same roof to understand brain, spinal cord, and nerve disorders and develop new treatments and devices. In this new space, our students have the freedom to pursue strong research ideas with support from faculty.

Then in June, we opened our new Student Success Center, a state-of-the-art building featuring high-tech, active-learning classrooms along with writing and math support labs. By bringing classes, tutors, advisors, and academic support services into one centralized location, we are helping to ease our students' transition to college and expect to boost second-year retention by as much as 10 percent within the next few years.

Both of these buildings represent our ongoing dedication to serving our students and our community. As you will see in this issue, our students, faculty, staff, and alumni clearly share this commitment to touching people's lives and making a difference. We are incredibly proud of our alumni who are doing meaningful work in public service. Nan Whaley, mayor of Dayton, and Brian Jarvis, mayor of Beavercreek, are two shining examples of Wright State graduates who are working hard to grow the Dayton region and further enhance our quality of life.

As you read Nan's and Brian's stories, I challenge you to think about how you can contribute to the causes you are most passionate about. Regardless of how busy our lives get, each of us can carve out some time to help an elderly neighbor, serve a meal in a homeless shelter, or volunteer at our child's school.

After all, it is up to us to be the change we seek in the world. And remember, even the smallest acts of kindness can quickly add up to a mountain of good.

Until our next issue...

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

## mayor whaley

**master of public administration  
graduate nan whaley '09  
finds meaning in her work  
as mayor of dayton**

BY BOB MIHALEK

WHEN SHE WAS 11, NAN WHALEY SHARED A PAPER ROUTE with her 9-year-old brother, David, in her family's Indianapolis suburban neighborhood.

While her brother worked to save money to buy video games, Whaley would get excited about the newspaper delivery process and seeing her neighbors on her route.

For her, it wasn't about the money.

"I've always been motivated by making sure that the work I'm doing is really meaningful to me personally, and that's my strongest piece," she said. "The pay, it's not about that. Even going back to when I was 10, 11 years old."

That attitude has stuck with Whaley, who graduated from Wright State University in 2009 with a Master of Public Administration degree.

Whaley remains involved with Wright State, teaching a course on Women and Leadership, and working with university administrators and faculty on an effort to cultivate women leaders throughout the community.

She describes herself as a working-class kid whose father worked for GM and mother was a realtor and the town's clerk-treasurer. She is motivated to work for causes she is passionate about, including Dayton, education, and women in leadership.

That has led Whaley to work her way up the political ladder—all the way to her current position of mayor of Dayton.

Whaley came to Dayton to study chemistry at the University of Dayton. She says she fell in love with the city and its people and has remained ever since. She got involved in local, state, and national campaigns; served on the Montgomery County Board of Elections; and worked as a deputy to the Montgomery County auditor.

When she was elected to the Dayton City Commission in 2005, Whaley was 29 and the youngest woman ever chosen for a commission seat. After serving on the commission for two terms, she was elected mayor in 2013.

A year and a half into her first term, Whaley says she loves serving as mayor. "It's not every day that you get to get up every morning and do something that you're very passionate about," she said.

As mayor, Whaley works hard to set, and be the voice of, a vision and a strategy to grow Dayton and the region. "To be the person who moves the message for the region and spreads that vision is a really fun job," she said.

That vision involves ensuring Dayton and the region are an open and inclusive community in an effort to spark growth. This includes creating Welcome





Dayton, an initiative designed to attract immigrants and encourage those already in the city to stay; supporting same-sex marriage; providing opportunities to people in extreme poverty; and celebrating, as Whaley put it, that “people come from different places even if they’re in the same city.”

“We see that companies and businesses want that diversity of experience, they want communities that are not at all homogeneous but have a diverse set of ideas and a diverse set of people, and Dayton offers that,” she said. “You want to do some work, you want to make a difference? You come to Dayton.”

Tony Ortiz, associate vice president of Latino affairs at Wright State, says the Latino community holds Whaley in high regard because of her outreach efforts and attention. In addition to her work through Welcome Dayton, Ortiz said, Whaley has been especially active with El Puente Education Center, a tutoring program that helps young Latino children succeed in school.

“We know Dayton is a good area, and with people like Nan leading the way, it makes it even better,” Ortiz said.

Other Wright State faculty and staff are actively involved in Welcome Dayton, including Kimberly Barrett, vice president for multicultural affairs and community engagement and a member of the Welcome Dayton Committee; Jack Dustin, interim director of the Office of

Service-Learning and Civic Engagement; and Jennifer Subban, associate professor of urban affairs and geography.

As evidence that Dayton’s growth strategy is working, Whaley points out that last year the city experienced its first population increase since 1963.

Whaley says she is most proud of the Dayton’s City of Learners initiative, an effort she launched to create a culture of lifelong learning among Daytonians. The initiative seeks to ensure that students graduate from high school prepared to continue on to college, seek advanced training, or join the military.

“We need our citizens to take one extra step and mentor that child who doesn’t have an adult in their life, or the community to provide quality pre-K,” she said, “so they can go to Wright State and be successful and have a good experience there.”

Whaley says Wright State can play a significant role in Dayton’s future. “I think Wright State is key for the city,” she said. “A lot of our kids go to Wright State, and for us it’s a key part in this cradle-to-career-learning piece.”

This fall, Whaley is teaching a course at Wright State, Women and Leadership, examining leadership qualities, gender and social identity, and how systems hinder women in leadership.

She also taught the course in 2012 and has updated it for the fall semester. “I learned a lot from the students,” she said,

“and I think that’s a sign of a good class—that it’s refreshing.”

Teaching the course was her idea. Like so much of her work, Whaley wanted to teach a course on a topic she deeply cares about. “Supporting women into leadership roles is a big passion of mine,” she said.

That is also the idea behind Whaley’s other Wright State initiative: working with Kimberly Barrett, vice president for multicultural affairs and community engagement, the Women’s Center, and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program to launch the Dayton Leadership Collaborative, a community effort to cultivate and support women leaders in government, academia, nonprofit organizations, and business.

The collaborative’s advisory group includes a who’s who of leaders from the region, including representatives from Wright State and other area universities, health care organizations, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Whaley approached Barrett and Wright State President David R. Hopkins about running the collaborative out of the university.

“For it to be housed at Wright State is very important to me,” Whaley said. “I think the Women’s Studies Program, the commitment to that kind of leadership is something that Wright State can demonstrate across the community and the region.”

Barrett acknowledges that leadership



organizations are plentiful, but what sets apart the Dayton Leadership Collaborative is its goal to identify and support latent leaders, or women who may be leaders but are not necessarily recognized for it or are working in uncommon areas.

"In order to create a pipeline for more women's leadership, you do have to look at those people who are not the usual suspects," Barrett said.

Whaley admits that the region not only needs more women in leadership positions but also women who can be groomed to take on future leadership roles.

"I stand on the shoulders of other great women and people who did break the glass ceiling. I'm not a ceiling breaker. People came before me," Whaley said. "The whole point of shattering it is not to be the only one—but to have more women in those roles because I think it helps the conversation and again gives that diversity of perspective."

Whaley's plans include running for reelection in 2017.

"I never imagined I'd be the mayor of Dayton, but I've always tried to live my life and be prepared for whatever opportunity will come," Whaley said. "You do your very best in the job you're in, you show great leadership skills there, you do good work, and then you see what opportunities come from there." **W**

## following his heart

by bob mihalek



Shortly after he was elected to the city council in Beavercreek, Ohio, Brian Jarvis started using vacation time from his full-time job to focus on his responsibilities with the city.

"After a while that made it clear to me where my heart was," he recalled.

His heart, it turns out, wanted to serve his community. So Jarvis, not wanting to do either job half-heartedly, decided to retire from Northrop Grumman, where he had worked for more than two decades as a computer engineer and mission assurance manager.

Jarvis was first exposed to computers while in the U.S. Air Force. Trained to maintain missiles for fighter aircraft using computers, he was stationed at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, and Kunsan Air Base in Korea.

A three-time graduate of Wright State, Jarvis was appointed to the Beavercreek Council in 2009 to fill a vacancy. He has since been elected to two four-year terms and is serving the first two years of his final term as the city's mayor.

"As a councilperson, we have the ability to make a difference, more than just what we do on council," Jarvis said. "We get a chance to reach out and touch people and make a difference—and that is important."

As mayor, he can be found all around the community, meeting with residents, attending special events, and spending time at local schools and businesses. He also has represented Beavercreek on the Greene County Family and Children First Council and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and currently serves on the Greene County Law Library Resources Board.

In 2014, he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, which recognizes veterans for outstanding

community service.

Jarvis graduated from Stebbins High School in Riverside, Ohio, and received bachelor's degrees in computer science and environmental science and a master's degree in computer science from Wright State.

He is a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, hosted Wright State's On the Road in Raider Country event for Greene County alumni, and often returns to campus to attend university events, including ROTC ceremonies and graduations.

"Representing Beavercreek and being a Wright State graduate, I try to make myself available to any organization I support. Wright State is a big one," he said. "I try to be very supportive of things that are occurring in our region, with a focus on supporting Greene County and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base."

After graduating with a computer science degree, Jarvis worked for four years for a Virginia defense contractor developing software for the U.S. Navy before returning to this area in 1986. He spent the rest of his career at TRW, which eventually was acquired by Northrop Grumman.

Jarvis grew up in an Air Force family. His father, three brothers, and sister have all served in the Air Force. "Where some of my friends followed their parents working at GM or NCR, I followed my father and siblings to the Air Force," he said.

Giving back to the community is important to Jarvis. He points out that Beavercreek has many hundreds of volunteers who get involved in the city's parks, special events, and many city boards and commissions.

"I look at myself as just one of those volunteers who does things that help make the city better," he said.

# all-star advocates

**2015–16 presidential lecture series to focus on ada 25th anniversary, access to all**

BY SETH BAUGUESS



**ADA 25**  
AMERICANS WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT  
1990-2015

**September 9**—Dayton Campus

**September 10**—Lake Campus

**Temple Grandin**

*In collaboration with the  
Office of Disability Services*

**November 3**

**Senator Tom Harkin**

*In collaboration with the  
Office of Disability Services*

**February 12**—lecture

**February 13**—The Adventure Summit

**Amy Purdy**

*In collaboration with the Adventure Summit  
and the Office of Disability Services*

**March 22**

**Maysoon Zayid**

*In collaboration with the 2016 Honors  
Institute and the Office of Disability Services*

A POLITICIAN, AN ACADEMIC, AN ATHLETE, AND A COMEDIAN WALK INTO A ROOM. It may sound like the start of a joke, but it's actually the speaker schedule for this year's Presidential Lecture Series.

Each speaker will help Wright State University, a pioneer in accessibility, celebrate and educate its community about the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Former U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, outspoken academic Temple Grandin, adaptive athlete Amy Purdy, and rising comedian Maysoon Zayid fill a star-studded slate sure to challenge and engage Wright State's community in ways never done before.

"It only makes sense for us to reflect and celebrate the ADA," said Tom Webb, director of disability services. "Because not only is accessibility at the core of our culture at Wright State today, but it's always been there. Our commitment to serving students with disabilities dates back to the early '70s, and when the ADA was adopted in 1990, it validated what Wright State had been doing for years—providing equal access to higher education for all students."

Today Wright State has one of the most accessible campuses in the country. Named among the top five disability-friendly universities in America, Wright State provides an accessible pedestrian tunnel system that connects nearly every building in the academic sector of campus. The university converts countless textbooks into alternate formats for students with disabilities, helps coordinate in-house personal assistance services (something most universities have stopped), and can boast about having a robust Ohio STEM Ability Alliance program, a one-of-a-kind service dog park, the reigning Ms. Wheelchair Ohio, and a popular service dog training program.

Wright State is a national leader in everything the Americans with Disabilities Act stands for.

At its core, the ADA was created to open doors and provide opportunity to those who have traditionally been shut out from employment, education, and participation in everyday activities like shopping, visiting a park, or even riding a bus.

The act's first title, the employment section, is still an area that has not completely taken hold, though it was the original impetus for the law. Advocates say employment opportunities have improved for some people with disabilities, but there's still a lot of work that needs to be done.

"But in terms of building architecture, telecommunications, and transportation, it has revolutionized those industries. It's no longer an afterthought. It's baked in, as they say," said Webb. "I think three of our four speakers are good examples of people who are using their disability to open doors for themselves, market themselves, instead of letting it be something that prevents them from succeeding."

The first lecturer can attest to the power of marketing one's unique skills and perspective to set a path to success.

Academic and outspoken disabilities advocate **Temple Grandin** will visit Wright State September 9. A professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University, Grandin has Asperger's and has used her disability to see the world differently, helping to revolutionize humane livestock handling. She was the subject of the HBO movie *Temple Grandin*, in which acclaimed actress Claire Danes played Grandin.

People may also know her from her TED Talks in which she describes how she thinks in pictures or imagery, whereas most people think in a narrative with words. Grandin believes her visual thinking allows her to make connections that inspire her livestock equipment designs, based on her ability to observe the animals' behaviors and imagine their perceptions of the environment.

Grandin states that her disability and her development of strategies and coping mechanisms have set her apart and set her up for success.





Tom Webb

## Wright State is a national leader in everything the Americans with Disabilities Act stands for.

In one TED Talk, she explores her theories about different types of non-neurotypical thinkers and how their unique perspectives can solve problems and provide insights that neurotypical brains might miss. She said Einstein, Mozart, and other prodigies would today be diagnosed with Asperger's or within the high-functioning range of the autism spectrum.

Diagnosed with autism nearly 40 years before the ADA, Grandin is a proponent of early intervention in the education of students with autism. She believes that students on the autism spectrum could prove to be a rich source of innovation and revolutionary ideas—if given the proper support and education. Grandin's message to the world is to foster the skills of students on the spectrum, not shut them out of the education process due to intellectual and social differences.

The university's second speaker, former Senator **Tom Harkin**, worked tirelessly for years to enact government policies to support equal rights for people with disabilities.

"In former Senator Harkin's case, though he does not have a disability, he's been an unwavering and passionate advocate for people with disabilities for decades," said Webb.

Webb should know. As a Kennedy Fellow, he worked with members of Harkin's staff in Washington, D.C., to improve the ADA of 1990 with the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Harkin, who has a brother who is deaf, was integral in getting both acts passed. Webb said Harkin did so by attracting and employing "some of the most brilliant minds over the last 30 years for disability policy."

Harkin will make his first visit to Wright State November 3, a trip he told Webb and Assistive Technology Specialist

Katherine Myers was long overdue when they were in Washington, D.C., in 2014 to testify before Congress about accessibility best practices in higher education.

**Amy Purdy's** refusal to be shut out exemplifies the spirit of the ADA. Wright State's third speaker in the Presidential Lecture Series has been a world-class athlete since she was a teenager, held her own on the popular television show *Dancing with the Stars*, and is co-founder of Adaptive Action Sports. She's also a double amputee with prosthetics for both her legs.

Already a world-class snowboarder, Purdy lost her legs after a protracted battle with a form of bacterial meningitis at the age of 19. Undeterred, she soon became a world-class adaptive snowboarder and won a bronze medal in the 2014 Paralympics.

"Like our students, she's one of those people who can show you really can overcome a lot of obstacles no matter when your disability develops in life," said Webb.

Purdy has leveraged her disability into marketability by writing books, joining Oprah's speaking tour, and becoming an advocate for people with disabilities.

"She's in that category that's pushing the boundaries in terms of athletes and their modifications, but she's also showing that beauty can take all forms," said Webb. "One person's definition of beauty doesn't have to match the rest. She's succeeding at spreading a message of inclusiveness and acceptance."

The 2016 Honors Institute Symposium speaker is carrying that same banner of inclusivity in the entertainment industry.

**Maysoon Zayid** is a Palestinian comedian from New Jersey who also has cerebral palsy. In her TED Talk, viewed nearly seven million times, Zayid is frank and funny about her disability: "I have

cerebral palsy. I shake all the time. I'm like Shakira meets Muhammad Ali."

Though her disability inspires her comedy, she denies that it defines her; she has famously said on stage, "I've got 99 problems in my life and palsy is just one."

A writer, actor, and comedian, Zayid is the co-founder of the New York Arab-American Comedy Festival and an up-and-coming actress fighting for roles that have traditionally gone to able-bodied actors with no disabilities. She uses her comedy to point out the disproportionate representation of people with disabilities in the entertainment industry: "If a wheelchair user can't play Beyoncé, then Beyoncé can't play a wheelchair user... People with disabilities are the largest minority in the world, and we are the most underrepresented in entertainment."

Zayid completes a subtle theme in the PLS slate this year. Each speaker has leveraged his or her disability or passion for accessibility into success and advocacy. They've used it to their advantage by creating a brand around it. But they didn't do it alone. It's a message that Webb hopes Wright State students will hear.

"They all in their own way represent the progress the ADA has provided. There's a good chance Amy Purdy would never have been able to get on *Dancing with the Stars* if it was 25 years ago. There's a good chance Temple Grandin might not be able to have a faculty position at a major university," said Webb.

"All these things have really been enabled because of the ADA. It's time to celebrate it. Whether it be with dogged political advocacy, poignant TED Talks, or stunning athletic achievement, let's let the spirit of the ADA continue to push us forward as it has for this star-studded group of speakers." **W**



*Jeanette Horwitz (front row, fourth from left) sits with a group of LEAP students.*

THE FIRST STUDENTS CAME FROM CHILÉ. They were planning to apply for Wright State's MBA program, but first needed to master English.

So in 1995, the university launched the LEAP Intensive English Program.

Founded by associate English professor Chris Hall and Amy Anderson at the Raj Sooin College of Business (called the College of Business and Administration at that time), LEAP—Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes—provides full-time English instruction and helps non-native speakers develop the linguistic, academic, and social skills they need to be successful at a university. There are five levels of study, from low beginner to advanced levels.

That first year there were 15 students and three part-time instructors. Today, there are about 150 students, and they “leap” into virtually every college on the campus.

“Even if they study only one semester, their chances of succeeding at the university are very, very good,” said LEAP Director Jeannette Horwitz. “They’ve got their foot in the door at the university, as LEAP provides the tools they need to be successful.”

Wright State's international student population is surging. The most recent count shows 1,835 international students from more than 60 different countries enrolled at the university. That compares to 639 in 2008.

“The faculty of LEAP are extremely helpful, supportive, encouraging, motivating, kind, and respectful,” said Mariam M. Saleh, a LEAP student from Iraq who plans on earning her Ph.D. in information engineering. “They put a lot of effort into understanding the abilities of each student, and they work

on improving these abilities. I am very grateful to them for developing my English.”

The LEAP Learning Center and LEAP Success Workshops offer tutoring and help with writing and grammar. Staffing the center are students from Wright State's Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program. The LEAP faculty conduct the workshops after class.

Teaching email etiquette can be tricky when dealing with students of different cultures. For example, students quickly learn that emails to professors that begin with “Hello Dear” and end with “Love to You” are not exactly proper form.

“Our program is set up to mirror the university courses,” said Horwitz. “It helps students with writing assignments, presentations, and group work. They get to make mistakes in our program, and we give them feedback.”

Another challenge is keeping up with changes and lesson requirements in the academic classes at the different colleges. Scheduled writing assignments, presentations, and group discussions are all tracked by communicating with faculty in other disciplines so as to best equip the international students with the necessary writing and speaking skills.

“LEAP teachers are all highly qualified,” said Catherine Crowley, assistant director of LEAP. “By being the creative and flexible program we’ve grown into, we can tap into those talents.”

LEAP offers a special course, English for EMBA, for international students working on their Executive MBAs at the Raj Sooin College of Business. LEAP has also designed a workshop specifically for international graduate students in the College of Engineering and Computer Science to help them with technical

# english expression

## leap program teaching the language to growing international population

BY JIM HANNAH

and professional writing.

"We've gotten more into specialized courses for special populations," said Horwitz.

LEAP recently received the highest level of accreditation from the national accrediting agency. The program's faculty worked on the accreditation for more than two years, underwent a three-day site visit from the Commission of English Language Program Accreditation (CEA), and in the end met more than 40 standards.

"For us, it's a stamp of approval that we are offering high-quality instruction," said Horwitz.

But LEAP is much more than learning English and developing writing and speaking skills. It brims with social and cultural events.

There are field trips to museums and Carillon Historical Park, which offers exhibits on the history of technology and Dayton. Cultural Hour features discussions about American holidays such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. American students from Cedarville University come to Wright State once a week for Conversation Night. And there is a Ladies Picnic in the fall for female international students.

"We have some social or cultural activity going on almost every week," said Horwitz.

The Conversation Partners program matches international students with retired Wright State faculty and staff.

"It's a way to practice your conversational skills in a low-stress environment," said Crowley. "American students or their partners act as cultural informants, which is really important for somebody newly navigating the culture. It's the inside information you need to know on the ground that's not in all the documents students have to read."

Retired professor Robert Wagley and his wife, Lorraine, meet regularly with international students as part of the program. Most recently, they met with a couple of students from Iraq, holding conversations with them on campus as well as during outings to the Dayton Art Institute, Oakwood's historic district, Young's Dairy, and community events.

"In visits to our home, the students have established friendships with our pets, a dog and cat," Wagley said. "Our latest adventures have been to various thrift shops. Many things we take for granted are new experiences for them."

There is also the Conversation Partner Project, a collaboration between LEAP and social work professor Shreya Bhandari that pairs American Wright State students with their foreign counterparts to create special friendships and offer an eye-opening view of foreign cultures.

The international students talk of experiencing Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas; sampling American restaurants; and meeting their partner's family and friends. The U.S. students talk of tasting exotic homemade meals and learning new words and about new religions.

Backgrounds can be jarringly different. A female student

who grew up in Nebraska, for example, was paired with one from Kuwait. And Meagan Wulber, a social work major from Versailles, Ohio, was paired up with Ahmad Al-Yacoub, a Saudi master's student majoring in human factors engineering.

Wulber was surprised that coming from a tiny rural town in the Midwest, she had many things in common with Al-Yacoub, including the importance of family. Al-Yacoub said his previous knowledge of America came from the American food he ate and the American television he watched in Saudi Arabia.

"Communication and understanding of cultures is a first step toward world peace," said Crowley. "That's my idealistic view. You show that people can get along."

Every year, LEAP students share their cultures by reading poems in their native languages to mark International Poetry Day. This year, students from Portugal, Syria, Niger, Iraq, China, Brazil, Libya, and Mauritania read poems from their native lands.

A student from the African nation of Mauritania read a poem that reminded that everyone are brothers and sisters no matter where they come from. A child who uses a pencil to try to draw everything—including the morning, freedom, and the future—was the subject of a poem read by a Chinese student.

A student from Syria made an impassioned plea to end the fighting in his native country with an original poem. And songs sung by a student from his native India were a crowd favorite.

In July, LEAP celebrated its annual Breaking the Fast Ramadan dinner at Pasha Grill at The Greene. More than 30 students, teachers, and friends gathered to share a traditional meal and friendship. It marked the sixth anniversary of celebrating Ramadan together.

LEAP has begun making its intensive English program more attractive to the local international community, offering courses for half price.

"Dayton is known as an immigrant-friendly city," said Crowley. "If we're going to bring people here, we should be able to offer them the high-quality education we offer people who are not citizens of the United States."

The LEAP program is also considering offering local businesses English-language training for their international employees.

"Language is power no matter where you live; communication is a survival skill," Crowley said. "You will thrive when you have language—at a university, in a factory, or in your community. And we would like to provide that to everybody."

Horwitz says she is proud of the LEAP students, especially the ones who spoke no English at all when she first met them.

"It's very gratifying when they come by the office and, in addition to mastering academic English, are able to have just a fun, chatty conversation," she said. "It's great to see they've picked up on little things that you've taught them." **W**

# social star

## wright state senior alli fitzpatrick makes millions laugh with vivacious social media character

BY BOB MIHALEK

SHE HAS 3.8 MILLION FOLLOWERS on Vine, 373,000 on Instagram, and 128,000 on Twitter. Her six-second Vines have been viewed more than 2 billion times, while her longer videos on YouTube have more than 3.1 million views.

Online she's known as AlliCattt, but around Wright State University she's Alli Fitzpatrick, a senior theatre studies major.

Fitzpatrick describes herself "as an actress that does six-second videos on an app." That app is Vine, a video-sharing service through which users share six-second-long videos that loop, or continuously play.

She makes funny videos inspired by real-life and often self-deprecating situations. She'll trip trying to jump into a pool, burn herself while curling her hair, or embarrass herself while flirting with a guy.

Fitzpatrick says she likes making people laugh.

"People will message me on Twitter and say, 'I was having such a bad day before I saw your Vine, and you just made me smile,'" she said. "I think that's really cool that I could make someone who was sad happier."

She describes AlliCattt as a character bubbling with energy who likes to have fun. She has used the lessons she learned in her Wright State theatre courses to help develop AlliCattt.

"I took my personality, and I just amped it a little bit more," she said. "AlliCattt is more cheerful and crazy and loud."

For Fitzpatrick, being in front of the camera comes naturally. When she was young, her father liked to film home videos. Fitzpatrick and her sister would get on camera and say funny things.

"Any way to get the attention," she recalled.

She grew up in Xenia and went to Xenia High School, where she took advanced theatrical production and played the flute in band. Her mother teaches health and physical education at Central State University and her father is a retired auto mechanic.

Fitzpatrick started using Vine after a friend suggested she create an account to follow celebrities, especially her favorite, Tyler the Creator. She watched all his Vines but also noticed that people who are not famous were receiving a lot of attention on the site.

So she started making videos as AlliCattt. Her big

break came thanks to a video featuring her dog, Roscoe, a Pomeranian-corgi mix. In it, Fitzpatrick attempted to take a selfie with Roscoe, who bit her instead.

"Everybody thought it was hilarious," she recalled.

It took her nine months to gain a million followers on Vine—and she hasn't looked back.

She has created more than 1,000 Vines, regularly uses Twitter to connect with fans and promote her work, shares photos from her latest trip on Instagram, and is now creating longer videos on YouTube.

When she first started making videos, Fitzpatrick would often work quickly and use just one take. Today, she takes multiple shots and directs her fellow actors, including Brandon Dotson, a childhood friend who often appears in her videos.

She also closely monitors each Vine. Those that get 100,000 likes from her followers she considers successful and will create follow-ups.

"As soon as we post a Vine, I need to have at least 1,000 likes within three minutes or else I know it's not going to turn out right," she said.

She has a manager and has appeared in ads for products like Coke, Fanta, and Sprite and apps like Skout and Spark Starter.

Fitzpatrick has traveled around the country to attend events like the MTV Video Music Awards and Teen Choice Awards as well as meetups with other internet stars. In May she traveled to Atlanta for a Vine birthday party; in June she went to New York for DigiTour, a festival where fans can meet internet celebrities; and in July she attended VidCon, a convention for YouTube and Vine creators in Anaheim, California.

Fitzpatrick wants to use her social media success to jump to movies and television.

"Social media can definitely bring you up," she said. "And that's what we're all really looking for."

After she graduates in December, she plans to move to California and "audition, audition, audition—for everything. If it's a background character, whatever, I just want the roles."

She enjoys traveling, interacting with fans, and being on camera. But she doesn't consider herself a celebrity—at least not yet.

"I'm not red-carpet famous," she said, "but I will be." **W**



See Alli in action:  [vine.co/AlliCattt](https://vine.co/AlliCattt)

 [youtube.com/user/AlliCatttable](https://youtube.com/user/AlliCatttable)





# lake dwellers

## new dean jay albayyari to build on legacy of bonnie mathies at lake campus

BY JIM HANNAH

WHEN HE FIRST REPORTED FOR WORK at Wright State University's Lake Campus, Jay Albayyari's first order of business was to meet the faculty and staff—individually.

So he walked around, introduced himself, and spent up to an hour with each one—all 100.

"That was the best investment," said the new Lake Campus dean, who prides himself on connecting with people. "What's special about this campus is how passionate the faculty and the staff and the community are about the campus. This is one place where I don't have to worry about people leaving and taking other positions."

On July 1, Albayyari took the reins from Bonnie Mathies, whose eight-year run produced surging enrollments, an expansion of bachelor's degree programs, construction of the first residence halls, and the purchase of nearly 40 acres for the campus to spread its wings.

But the size of the campus still makes it easy for interdisciplinary collaboration.

"My English teacher sits next to my physics teacher who sits next to my graphics teacher. We're not sitting in silos," Mathies said. "It's small enough that everybody knows everybody; everybody knows the students. You have a chance to impact in a much more direct fashion."

The 48-year-old Albayyari brings an engineering background and a colorful career to the job. He has three engineering degrees from the University of Cincinnati, has worked on the Strategic Defense Initiative (a.k.a. the Star Wars missile defense program), and has sent an experiment up on the Space Shuttle.

He says he sought the Wright State job because he wanted to lead a college campus with a lot of potential and help it prosper. He and his family live in a condo two miles from the Lake Campus.

In the next five years, Albayyari hopes to double or even triple enrollment at the Lake Campus from its current 1,147 students. He also wants to further develop the campus' technical programs, help raise money to build an advanced-manufacturing center, create a water quality institute, build a new athletics facility, and offer noncredit, professional-development classes for workers at nearby companies

"There is a lot of exciting stuff going on. We have a lot of new initiatives," he said. "It's an outstanding opportunity for us to grow this campus. The future is very bright."

This fall the campus will boast 11 bachelor's degree programs, including engineering, business, and nursing. That's up from seven when Mathies arrived. There are currently more than 150 students in the engineering program and more than 100 involved in various aspects of business programs.

Also flourishing are the agriculture and food science programs and a police academy that graduates an average of 15 students a year. A corrections academy and EMT program may be on the horizon.

This year, the Lake Campus received the 2015 President's Award for Excellence—Outstanding Unit.

Mathies says one of her proudest achievements was further developing the quality and diversity of the faculty on a campus that draws students with a strong work ethic.

"These are hard-working kids," said Mathies. "Many of them get up early in the morning, do their farm chores, come to school, work a job. Many of them have families."

Albayyari was born and raised in Doha, Qatar, an oil-rich Persian Gulf nation that borders Saudi Arabia. His father was general manager of a large car dealership there.

After graduating high school in 1984, Albayyari moved to Cincinnati, where one of his cousins was living. He began studying mechanical engineering at the University of Cincinnati and got a co-op job with Eastman Kodak in Dayton.

After obtaining both his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical

engineering, he landed a job with Hughes Aircraft Co. Missile Systems Group in Tucson, Arizona, where he worked on the Star Wars program and the AMRAAM air-to-air missile program.

Albayyari later returned to the University of Cincinnati, where he got a \$200,000 NASA grant to work with Boeing Aerospace and NASA Lewis Research Center to investigate cryogenic fuel behavior in zero gravity. He helped create an experiment that was taken aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour* in 1996.

"It was the highlight of my career," he said.

After earning his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, Albayyari began teaching manufacturing engineering at Northern Kentucky University. Then he went on to Eastern Michigan University, where he taught mechanical engineering. After that, it was Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne, where he chaired the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Technology, became associate dean and then associate vice chancellor for research.

Albayyari knew all along he wanted to be in administration.

"I like the management aspect," he said. "I think I communicate well with folks. They know that I care. I consider myself a good motivator and want to make sure people excel and reach their goals."

But Albayyari's winning personality, ability to communicate, and leadership qualities faced a challenge when he arrived in America. The change in culture and nuances of the English language made it difficult for him to fully express himself.

Especially tricky was humor, which Albayyari had used successfully in Qatar to connect with people. He would watch and study late-night talk show comedians Johnny Carson and David Letterman to try to understand American humor and what was considered funny.

"You have all of this personality and ability to communicate and be funny and to connect with people, but you can't get it out," he said. "It continues to be a challenge, but I think I broke through."

After coming to America, Albayyari's love for soccer morphed into a passion for football. He is a diehard Cincinnati Bengals fan and loves NASCAR, especially Dale Earnhardt Jr.

"I'm a sports fanatic. I watch all kinds of sports," he said. "That relaxes me." **W**

## nutter center turns 25

The Wright State University Nutter Center opened December 1, 1990, with a men's basketball game, followed by a Boston Pops concert two weeks later. The Nutter Center's upcoming year-long celebration of 25 years of fantastic sports, entertainment, cultural, and promotional events will kick off during the first two weeks of December 2015. Enjoy these images from various phases of the building's construction.







## carnegie classification

### wright state receives national recognition for community engagement

BY KAREN STRIDER-IIAMES

WALKING THROUGH A DAYTON NEIGHBORHOOD on a sunny day, Philip Ferrari and Elyse Giardullo were giving back to the community they love, while enhancing their research and leadership skills.

They were the ideal pair to lead a team of 16 Wright State University students conducting a Dayton property survey, in a partnership with the university, the city of Dayton, and the Thriving Communities Institute. Giardullo recently earned her Master of Public Administration degree from Wright State and Ferrari is pursuing his, while working as a graduate research assistant for the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement.

Using mobile devices, students took photos and visually assessed occupancy, condition, and use of approximately 75,000 parcels. "Our research will allow city planners to address blight, vacancy, and other concerns that city officials and residents have identified," explained Giardullo.

"We are very passionate about the impact this work will have on urban residents," Ferrari said. "Having both been born and raised in Dayton, we want the best for our city."

Wright State University's long history of community engagement is being recognized nationally once again. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected Wright State to receive its 2015 Community Engagement Classification.

"This acknowledges our commitment to serving others that is embedded in the very heart and soul of this institution," said Wright State President David R. Hopkins. "It's the very fabric of who we are."

Wright State is among just 83 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the classification for the first time, bringing the total to 361 nationwide.

Community engagement is everywhere on campus. Many initiatives enhance the physical, educational, economic, and social well-being of our local and global communities. Academic service-learning courses, internships, and co-ops are mutually beneficial to students, as well as organizations and businesses.

"The Carnegie designation is recognition of the exemplary ways in which faculty, students, and staff achieve a critical part of the mission of a modern public university—to transform the communities that we serve," said Kimberly Barrett, vice president for multicultural affairs and community engagement. Wright State also has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the past five years.

A total of 12,431 Wright State students were involved in academic service-learning and community service during the 2013–14 school year (the most recent data available), resulting in 708,431 service hours. More than 100 designated service-learning courses or sections are offered annually. Many more courses offer community engagement components.

"In addition to being a testament to what we have already done, the Carnegie Classification illustrates our commitment to sustaining and expanding mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance the academic enterprise while addressing the most pressing problems and opportunities in our communities," Barrett added.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is committed to developing networks of ideas, individuals, and institutions to advance teaching and learning. **W**

#### A FEW OF THE MANY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

A Youth and Community Engagement minor has been established.

Regional Summits are held at the Dayton and Lake Campuses to discover how the university can better serve its communities.

The Center for Healthy Communities collaborates with dozens of partners to improve the health and well-being of the community, educate its health professionals, and serve as a force for change.

The student-led Raiderthon dance marathon raised more than \$61,000 for Dayton Children's Hospital.

The Staff Advisory Council's We Serve U initiative encourages Wright State staff to devote time and skills for community engagement.

Wright State students provide more than 6,000 hours of tutoring to Dayton Public School children each year.

All students in the Boonshoft School of Medicine engage in service-learning, from health clinics for the underserved and health education classes for K-12 students, to medical missions abroad.

School of Professional Psychology students regularly provide more than 45,000 hours of clinical services to mostly underserved populations in the greater Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus metropolitan areas.

Every varsity sports team completes community service, such as visiting children in the hospital, mentoring, collaborations, and fundraising.

Through a global health service-learning course in Tanzania, nursing students participated in both experiential and observational learning while visiting health clinics.



Wright STEPP (Science, Technology, and Engineering Preparatory Program) provides academic enrichment and tuition scholarships to students from Dayton Public and Springfield City Schools.

The Center for Urban and Public Affairs works with local governments on strategic plans, needs assessments, economic impact studies, and surveys.

Dayton Means Internships, Co-ops, and Jobs, a consortium of academic, business, and community partners funded by the Ohio Board of Regents, focuses on Ohio workforce development.

The Small Business Development Center offers comprehensive business management and education services.

Engineering students helped develop a low-cost digital X-ray imaging device that was taken to a small rural clinic in Malawi.



*Top, from left: Student researchers Devin Bolden, Philip Ferrari, Tyler Feaver, Elyse Giardullo, Skylar Woods, and Erika Lemons*

*Bottom: Using mobile devices, Wright State students took photos and visually assessed occupancy, condition, and use of Dayton properties.*



## gene queen

**wright state's madhavi kadakia uses her genomics skills to battle cancer**

BY JIM HANNAH

SKIN CANCER, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER, AND ENDO-METRIOSIS are all on Madhavi Kadakia's hit list. The Wright State University researcher has been using high technology and her expertise in genetics to help diagnose and treat these sometimes deadly diseases.

Kadakia, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Boonshoft School of Medicine and College of Science and Mathematics, is riding the wave of personalized medicine, an increasingly popular medical model that uses molecular analysis to customize health care. Genetics is a big part of that.

"Your genetic makeup is going to give a clue as to what drugs you're going to respond to, what drugs you're not going to respond

to," said Kadakia, "We have reached a point where we can not only diagnose but treat patients based on their genetic makeup."

Last year, Kadakia received a grant to purchase a next-generation sequencer, which accelerates genome sequencing by producing thousands or millions of sequences concurrently. The sequencer has revolutionized understanding of the complexity of cellular gene expression and provided deeper insights into the genomic landscapes of many diseases.

"It's very important; it's really a state-of-the-art technology," she said. "We were very excited to be able to get it here at Wright State. People are really surprised at the equipment we have."

Kadakia became involved in a research project with Steven Lindheim, M.D., professor in the Department of Obstetrics and

Gynecology for Wright State at Premier Health. The project involves endometriosis, an inflammatory gynecological condition that produces chronic pelvic pain and infertility.

To diagnose endometriosis, it is often necessary to perform a biopsy, the surgical removal of tissue from the patient. The research project is instead taking bodily fluids including urine and blood and analyzing the DNA, proteins, and metabolites to create a panel of biomarkers that hopefully identify women with endometriosis, obviating the need to perform surgery to diagnosis this debilitating condition.

“You want to diagnose it quickly and try to come up with a way to diagnose it in a noninvasive manner,” Kadakia said.

The research is being aided by the Wright State University-Premier Health BioRepository, which provides patient body fluids and tissue samples.

As part of the funding by the National Cancer Institute-National Institutes of Health, Kadakia is also studying the effects of vitamin D on cell survival in non-melanoma skin cancer.

Vitamin D is thought to be important to maintain a healthy immune system. While vitamin D can be obtained from exposure to the sun’s ultraviolet radiation, too much UV exposure can also cause skin cancer.

“So we’re really interested in how much UV radiation is good and how much is not good and how vitamin D regulates those genes,” she said. “We are focusing on non-melanoma skin cancer since the gene we are interested in is overexpressed there. Our studies will provide more insight into the role of vitamin D in cancer.”

Her research on esophageal cancer is in collaboration with Sangeeta Agrawal, M.D., of the Dayton VA Medical Center.

To identify the precancerous esophageal condition, biopsies must be conducted over time, even though only a small percentage of the patients will actually get cancer.

“Can you imagine the anxiety?” Kadakia said. “Every time you go to the doctor, you don’t know if your condition has worsened.”

The goal of the research is to prevent the need for biopsies by genetically analyzing tissue and blood samples during different stages. The less-invasive procedure would be more cost effective and reduce patient anxiety.

Kadakia grew up in Mumbai, India, with eight brothers and sisters. Her parents strongly emphasized the importance of education.

“Their mantra was, ‘If we give you education, you’re going to get what you want in life,’” she said. “I just can’t be thankful enough. I still talk to my dad and my mom every time I have to make a critical decision in my life.”

When Kadakia was working on her bachelor’s degree in India, she took a course on immunology and fell in love with it. So she studied it as she pursued her master’s degree.

“It was about that time that AIDS was all over the news,” she said. “I was so fascinated by immunology, and I wanted to cure AIDS.”

When Kadakia was pursuing her doctorate in microbiology and infectious diseases at the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public Health, virtually her entire department was doing AIDS research, and she helped with clinical trials involving AIDS patients.

**The goal of the research is to prevent the need for biopsies by genetically analyzing tissue and blood samples during different stages. The less-invasive procedure would be more cost effective and reduce patient anxiety.**



However, the bulk of her research was on human herpes virus #6 in bone-marrow transplant patients.

The patients often get a rash and a fever that is attributed to graft versus host disease (GvHD), in which the donated bone marrow views the recipient’s body as foreign and attacks it. But the herpes virus can also cause the rash and fever, and it can become activated when a patient’s immune system is compromised.

Kadakia was able to isolate 16 new strains of herpes virus #6 in bone-marrow transplant patients.

“As a result of that, doctors actually look for that virus rather than just assume it’s graft versus host disease,” she said.

Kadakia joined the faculty at Wright State in 1999.

“If you are really interested in science, this is the place you want to be,” she said. “There is a sense of community. Everybody has the same focus.”

Kadakia escapes the pressures of the lab by painting. She has even created a tiny art studio in the basement of her house.

“When I’m painting, I don’t think of anything,” she said. **W**



*Kathrin Englisch*

## **Kathrin Englisch named interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics**

Kathrin Englisch was named interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, replacing Yi Li, who took a job as provost/ chief academic officer at California State University–Northridge. Englisch, an associate professor of neuroscience, cell biology, and physiology, has served as associate dean for undergraduate education and outreach since 2012. Englisch obtained her Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. Since coming to Wright State more than a decade ago, she has been a key contributor to the success of faculty and students associated with an NIH-funded Program Project Grant on Neural Injury and Repair, for which she served as one of five principal investigators.



*Nathan Klingbeil*

## **High schools, universities embracing Wright State's innovative engineering math curriculum model**

A revolutionary engineering curriculum at Wright State University is quickly spreading across the country. And the Wright State Model for Engineering Mathematics Education is not only spreading to other universities, it is also being embraced in the high schools. "It's the next big thing in high school opportunity," said Nathan Klingbeil, dean of Wright State's College of Engineering and Computer Science. "This changes the way we prepare kids to be engineers and fills the pipeline to corporate America with talented and diverse workers enthusiastic about their jobs. It will likely become a national model." While all of the traditional calculus courses are still required, the early back-to-back sequencing of calculus that so often derails students was replaced in 2004 with a more just-in-time, flexible structure. Klingbeil says "uncorking" the calculus bottleneck can enable universities to double the number of students who get their degrees.



*Brian Rigling*

## **Brian Rigling named top radar engineer**

The world's largest association of technical professionals selected engineering professor Brian Rigling as the recipient of the IEEE AESS Fred Nathanson Memorial Radar Award "for outstanding contributions in radar imaging and adaptive waveform design." The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the radar art through technical papers, presentations, inventions, or products by someone under the age of 40. Rigling credits his collaborative relationship with radar experts in the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The award came from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society. The IEEE is the world's largest association of technical professionals, with more than 400,000 members in chapters around the world.



David McCullough with CBS correspondent Rita Braver

## Wright Brothers Collection featured in *CBS Sunday Morning* story

Special Collections and Archives and its Wright Brothers Collection were featured in an interview with author David McCullough that aired on *CBS Sunday Morning* May 3. The archives hosted McCullough and a CBS crew in March as part of a story on the author's latest book, *The Wright Brothers*. McCullough discussed several items from the Wright Brothers Collection and the significance of the events they depict. *CBS Sunday Morning* also filmed McCullough at other Wright brothers sites in Dayton and elsewhere. A two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, McCullough visited the Special Collections and Archives last fall to conduct research for his book using Wright State's world-renowned Wright Brothers Collection, one of the most complete collections of Wright material in the world. Tom Hanks and HBO plan to create a miniseries based on McCullough's book.

## Tamera Schneider takes prestigious position at National Science Foundation

A chance to shape the future of social psychology by directing federal resources will soon be in the hands of Wright State University psychology professor Tamera Schneider, who has been appointed program director at the National Science Foundation. Schneider began her duties August 10 in the Washington, D.C., area as head of the NSF's social psychology program in the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences. "Dr. Schneider will be joining the preeminent federal agency for supporting social psychology and will have a remarkable opportunity to influence funding strategies and learn about truly cutting-edge research in that field," said Robert Fyffe, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School.



Tamera Schneider

## Wright State and DCDC formalize collaborative partnership

A new agreement between Wright State and Dayton Contemporary Dance Company will enhance students' educational experiences by increasing exposure to exceptional arts programming. The agreement formalizes a longstanding relationship between Wright State and DCDC. It will lead to more collaborative efforts between the institutions, including sharing of dancers and choreographers and the creation of new dance pieces. DCDC will also provide guest artists and adjunct faculty in Wright State's dance program. Select Wright State dancers will continue to perform with DCDC2, the company's repertory-training ensemble. The dance company will also provide opportunities for service-learning and internships for Wright State students, while DCDC staff may take arts management courses at the university.



Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

## honoring outstanding alumni

Wright State University acknowledges outstanding alumni each year. Ten honorees were recognized in 2015 during the 16th annual College Outstanding Alumni Awards. These individuals represent some of the best and brightest in their fields and are a tribute to the education they received from Wright State. During the ceremony, each college recognized former students who have gone on to make exceptional contributions to their professional fields while giving back to their communities. President David R. Hopkins and university deans presented the recipients with the 2015 College Outstanding Alumni Awards.

Each of the award winners were chosen by their college's dean based on the following criteria:

- *Achieving a significant level of accomplishment in their chosen profession*
- *Making a positive impact on a local, State, national, or international level*
- *Demonstrating impressive volunteer service by giving significantly of their time and talents through professional and community service organizations*
- *Seeking the advancement of Wright State University*
- *Possessing high standards of integrity and character that positively enhance the prestige of the university*



**Left to right: Douglas A. Cook**, '81 M.B.A., '85 M.S., Raj Soin College of Business; **Orval H. Homan** (non-degreed alumnus), Lake Campus; **Michael C. Bridges**, '81 B.S.E., College of Engineering and Computer Science; **Randall W. Franz**, '92 M.D., F.A.C.S., R.V.T., Boonshoft School of Medicine; **Judy Wyatt**, '88 B.A., College of Liberal Arts; **Anna Jones Monnett**, '83 B.S.N., '87 M.S., Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health; **Zachary W. Holler**, '12 B.S., College of Education and Human Services; **Ellis F. Unger**, M.D., '76 B.S., College of Science and Mathematics; **Joseph E. Keferl**, '93 B.S., '94 M.R.C., '95 M.R.C., Wright State University Graduate School. **Not pictured: Erin E. Andrews**, '08 Psy.D., School of Professional Psychology



## alumni events calendar



Costa Rica



India



Monte Carlo

### 2016 alumni tours

- February** Sands and Shores (*Caribbean cruise*)
- April** Tropical Costa Rica (*land*)
- May** Essence of the Atlantic (*New York to Lisbon cruise*)
- August** Coastal Alaska (*cruise*)
- October** European Empires of Artistry (*cruise*)
- November** India (*land*)



Alaska

## WEBINAR

**career webinars** from the nation's top career authors and experts offered to all Wright State alumni for free most Wednesdays. Some upcoming webinars include:

- Aug. 19, 2015** You Can Retire Sooner Than You Thought
- Oct. 7, 2015** The Hidden Job Market: Creating Opportunities Out of Thin Air
- Nov. 4, 2015** The Strategic Networker
- Dec. 2, 2015** Impressions: The Power of Personal Branding

### mark your calendar for these other alumni events

#### september

<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>
Social Work Alumni Society Beer Tasting	Wright State's Night to Shine in New York at the United Nations	5th Annual Bourbon Tour	GOLD Meeting (Graduates Of the Last Decade)	Wright State's Night to Shine in Southern California at the Lot in West Hollywood

#### october

<b>9-10</b>	<b>17</b>
Homecoming Weekend	Wright State's Night to Shine in Washington, D.C. at the Congressional Country Club

#### november

<b>13</b>
Wright State's Night to Shine in Cincinnati



# WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY **RAIDER** **HOMECOMING**

Join us for the annual Homecoming Festival in the parking lot of the Rinzler Student Sports Complex. Enjoy live music from Wright State alumni, **The Kate Hasting Band** and *American Idol* top 16 finalist **Alexis Gomez**! Live music will begin at 5 p.m. While at the festival, participate in the annual chili cook-off, grab a bite to eat from a local food truck, try to beat the AROTC maze, sign up a team to compete in the cornhole tournament, and catch up with fellow alumni in Alumni Association beer tent!

Visit [wright.edu/homecoming](http://wright.edu/homecoming) to learn more about other Wright State Homecoming events, including the Homecoming Festival.



## friday, october 9

5:30–7 p.m.	<b>Organizational Leadership Wine Tasting</b>
6–8 p.m.	<b>Alumni Achievement Awards*</b>
7–10 p.m.	<b>College of Education and Human Services Trivia Night</b>
8–11 p.m.	<b>Residential Community Association Casino Night</b>

## saturday, october 10

9 a.m.	<b>Alumni Association Scholarship Brunch*</b>
1–2 p.m.	<b>Club Football Reunion/Alumni Tailgate</b>
2 p.m.	<b>Club Football vs. University of Michigan–Flint</b>
3–5 p.m.	<b>Wright State Women’s Soccer vs. Oakland</b>
4 p.m.	<b>Wright State Volleyball vs. Cleveland State</b>
5–7 p.m.	<b>Student-Athlete Alumni Cookout</b>
5–11 p.m.	<b>HOMECOMING FESTIVAL AT THE RINZLER</b>
5:30–6:45 p.m.	<b>Alexis Gomez Performance</b>
5:30 p.m.	<b>Annual Chili Cook-Off</b>
7–9 p.m.	<b>Wright State Men’s Soccer vs. Valparaiso</b>
9:30–11 p.m.	<b>The Kate Hasting Band</b>

## sunday, october 11

7 p.m.	<b>University Activities Board Presents: Kevin Hart and the <i>What Now</i> Tour</b>
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\*Invitation only events

## 2015

**Charles Spear** (M.D.) was one of six people nationwide to receive the 2015 Young Physicians Patient Safety Award at the annual Association of American Medical College's Integrating Quality meeting for his essay detailing personal insights into the significance of patient safety work.

## 2014

**Andrew Elliott** (B.S.), a pitcher on the Wright State University baseball team, was selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the 30th round of the Major League Baseball draft.

**Leigh Treadway** (B.S.) was named national sales representative of the wholesale products division of Continental Fan Manufacturing Inc. in Dayton, OH.

## 2013

**Nathan Cardenas** (B.A.) is a graduate assistant at Kent State University's Institute for Applied Linguistics.

**Sean Donohue** (B.S.B.) won Wright State University's first Wright Venture competition, which pitted several business ideas from students against each other for a \$5,000 startup business loan.

**Drew Ramsay** (B.A.) is a training manager for a military unit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (OH).

**Mark Winkle** (B.A.), who recently published *I Will Fear No Evil*, a book about how people use their free will and choose to accomplish good or evil, released a new book titled *The Truth About Alcohol, Drugs and Cigarettes: The Realities of Addiction and Recovery*.

## 2012

**Kurt Baumer** (M.B.A.), a project engineer for Baumer Construction in Minster, OH, was presented with his professional engineering license at an Ohio Statehouse ceremony hosted by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Surveyors and the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE).

**Sean Martin** (B.A.), a TV production engineer, is with the New York City-based Mobile TV Group, working primarily with FOX Sports Networks.

**Brock Taylor** (B.S.), a city economic development specialist with the City of Dayton (OH), was promoted to the new position of small business advocate.

**Luke Wortley** (B.A.) is fiction editor of the journal *Booth* at Butler University.

## 2011

**Daniel Harris** (B.A.), a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve, was sworn in as a police officer in Tipp City, OH.

**Stephanie Tucker** (B.F.A.) is working as an actress in Los Angeles, CA.

## 2010

**Ian Fuller** (B.S.E.P.) was appointed vice president for business development and engineering at Angstrom Materials Inc., a Dayton-based company that manufactures graphene and graphene oxide.

**Jamie Suttle** (B.A.), a singer/songwriter who records at The Red Recording in Dayton, OH, released her first album, titled *This Is My Story*.

## 2009

**Justin Kilmer** (B.A.) was promoted to post production supervisor on the CBS-TV show *NCIS*.

**Vanessa Walton** (B.A.) is an associate program director in the Learning Abroad Center at the University of Minnesota.

**Kelsey White** (B.A.) is teaching first-through third-year German courses at the University of Wisconsin.

## 2008

**Ryan Ireland** (B.A.)(M.A.) published his debut novel, *Beyond the Horizon*, which imagines a stark American frontier.

**Lucas Jordan** (B.A.) was hired as manager of social media at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, TN.

## 2007

**Kevin Alexander** (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.) was hired as athletic director at National Trail High School in New Paris, OH.

**John McIntire** (M.S.)(Ph.D.), won the 2015 Stanley N. Roscoe Award from the Aerospace Human Factors Association for best doctoral dissertation in a research area related to the field of aerospace human factors.

## 2006

**Ronvé O'Daniel** (B.F.A.) has written the book and lyrics to "iLLA: A Hip-Hop Musical," a semi-autobiographical account concerning Robert Perry, a classically trained ballet dancer in an interracial relationship who dreams of becoming a famous rap star.

**Brittney Whiteside** (B.S.)(M.R.C.) was hired as an associate athletics director at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

## 2005

**Justin Goney** (B.A.) is a testing and documentation engineer in Finland at NVIDIA, which creates interactive graphics on computers.

**Joyce E. Smith** (B.S.)(M.Ed.), administrative support coordinator for equity and inclusion at Wright State University, won the Diversity Visionary Award from *Insight into Diversity* magazine.

## 2004

**Pascale Abadie** (B.A.)(M.Ed.), assistant professor of French at Wright State University, led the Ambassador Program to France, where students spent one week in Bordeaux and two weeks in Paris.

## 2003

**Gina Ferraro** (B.A.) exhibited her acrylic paintings with the themes women and nature at the Centerville (OH) Art Gallery.

**Justin Firks** (B.A.) was hired as superintendent of Fort Recovery (OH) Local Schools.

**Linsey Milillo** (B.A.) received the Janice Smuda Children's Librarianship Award from Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science.

**Beth Zugelder** (M.Ed.) was named director of special services for Huber Heights (OH) City Schools.

## 2002

**Landon Crowell** (B.F.A.), an artist who uses wood to explore construction materials and how the end results change the environment, presented a mixed-media show at Rosewood Gallery in Kettering, OH.

**Kevin Leary** (B.F.A.), assistant to the director of the Arts Management Program at the University at Buffalo in the State University of New York system, was a 2015 SUNY Chancellor Award Winner for Excellence in Professional Service.

**Sean T. Patrick** (B.S.B.), a commercial lines underwriting manager for Cincinnati Insurance, earned the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation.

**Sasanka Prabhala** (M.S.Eg.)(Ph.D.), executive director strategic information and business intelligence at Wright State University, received a 2015 Innovator Award for his work in administrative systems from *Campus*

*Technology*, a digital magazine that covers higher education.

## 2001

**Breana (Nichols) Bass** (B.A.) works as a claims representative with the Social Security Administration handling interviews that require a Spanish translator and/or interpreter.

**Sri Yellapregada** (B.S.B.) is founder of Tubism, a Menlo Park, CA-based company that makes environmentally friendly products, including a portable travel-sized tube with a twist nozzle and zip-lock end.

## 2000

**Danny Cwiklik** (B.A.), who was a four-year varsity soccer player at Wayne (OH) High School, was selected for induction into the Wayne High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

## 1999

**Taiwo Sutton** (M.Ed.) was named principal of South-Doyle Middle School in Knox County (TN).

**Renee (Cordery) Wilkins** (Psy.D.) is owner of Winds Of Change Mental Health Services, LLC, providing psychotherapy and medication management services to a highly underserved area in New Mexico.

## 1998

**Vaseem Hadi** (B.A.), an attorney who manages the Ohio office of the law firm Gibson & Sharps, PSC, is the author of *Anderson's Ohio Personal Injury Litigation Manual*.

**Michael Haeflinger** (B.A.) was named visiting assistant professor in creative writing at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA.

**Chad Oney** (B.S.M.E.), was named vice president of operations for Mactac, a Stow, OH-based company that supplies products for the graphic and decoration fields, the self-adhesive label industry, and fixing and mounting solutions in several industries.

## 1997

**Carrie Stambaugh** (B.S.Ed.), a volunteer mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tri-State program who lives in the Ashland, KY, area, was honored with the national 2015 Big Sister of the Year Award.

## 1996

**Jason Clark** (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.) was appointed principal of Arcanum (OH) Elementary School.

**Nikki Quallen** (B.S.Ed.), director of curriculum and instruction for the Wilmington (OH) City School District,

was presented the Humanitarian Hero Award for her commitment in serving the community.

## 1995

**Mandal Haas** (M.D.) received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the Carrollton (OH) Civic Club.

**Brett Poling** (M.Ed.) was named director of the Piqua (OH) Civic Band.

## 1994

**Reva Cosby** (M.Ed.) was named superintendent of Mt. Healthy (OH) City Schools, effective July 1.

**David White** (B.A.) graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA, with a master's degree in Christian leadership.

## 1993

**Joseph Keferl** (B.S.)(M.R.C.) will begin serving as dean of Wright State University's College of Education and Human Services in 2016.

## 1992

**Frances Milano** (B.S.B.) is a platinum financial services advisor with Ameriprise Financial, a Beavercreek, OH-based financial-planning company.

## 1991

**Tim Gebard** (M.B.A.) produced *The Fall League*, a poignant documentary film about seniors who find purpose on the softball diamond.

**Christ J. Ticoras** (M.D.), who practices dermatology in Mansfield, OH, was recognized

as one of America's top dermatologists by the Consumer Research Council of America.

## 1990

**Arthur Branstrom** (Ph.D.), vice president of biology at PTC Therapeutics Inc. in New Jersey, was named Bay College's (MI) 2015 Distinguished Alumni of the Year by the Bay College Alumni Association.

**Paul Newman Jr.** (B.F.A.) was named executive director of the Fairborn (OH) Area Chamber of Commerce.

## 1989

**Richard Seas** (M.Ed.) was hired as superintendent by the Adams County/Ohio Valley Board of Education, effective Aug. 1.

## 1988

**Jacqueline Applegate** (B.S.) was named head of Environmental Science, the Lyon, France-based non-agricultural business operations unit of Bayer CropScience.

## 1987

**Katherine Rowell** (B.A.)(M.A.), professor of sociology and the director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Sinclair Community College (OH), was featured as Daytonian of the Week by Dayton.com.

## 1986

**Evan L. Harper** (M.S.) retired as human resources manager for the City of Columbus (OH) Department of Technology.

## 1984

**Keith Mckeever** (B.A.) was named to the Bellbrook Sugarcreek (OH) Schools Hall of Fame 2013 and Bellbrook Citizen of the Year for 2014.

## 1983

**Carl Benkovich** (B.S.B.) was appointed chief operating officer of KeyImpact Sales & Systems, Inc., an Odenton, MD-based food service sales and marketing agency.

**Larry R. Price** (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.) retired from Carlisle (OH) Local Schools after 31 years teaching grades 2-6 and high school English and is currently working as a substitute teacher in the New Lebanon and Valley View school districts.

**Pamela Riggins** (M.S.) was promoted to supportive living program team leader at PLACES, Inc., a Montgomery County, OH, organization that provides housing and support services for adults diagnosed with mental health disorders.

## 1981

**Steve Newsome** (B.A.), who recently retired as vice-president/CIO with Swedish Match North America, serves as executive partner with Black Irish Holdings, Inc., a private equity and management consulting firm in Owensboro, KY.

## 1980

**Mari L. Brett** (B.S.)(M.S.) released a book titled *Embracing by Praying Hearts*, which contains short stories, poems, and prose inspired by events that took place in Brett's life.

**Margaret "Maggie" O'Brien King** (M.S.) won the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Holistic Nurses Association.

**Ellen Perrine** (B.A.)(M.B.A.) works for AOC Key Solutions, a Chantilly, VA-based business-development firm.

## 1979

**Mike Wagner** (B.A.) is a senior procurement analyst for the Air Force Installation Contracting Agency.

## 1974

**Bob Ryan** (M.Ed.) retired from a 30-year career with the Department of the Navy, where he served as an advisor to the assistant secretary on matters of education, training and career development.

## 1968

**Donald R. Nims** (B.A.), was appointed emeritus professor of counseling and student affairs at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY.

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# ACCORDS

## PEACE, WAR, AND THE ARTS

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# scoring star lynch has raiders talking title

BY ANDREW CALL



*Eric Lynch (#14)*

Eric Lynch learned early that he might be particularly gifted at soccer—very early.

“The first time I played competitive soccer was in a rec league when I was 4 years old,” Lynch recalled. “I can’t say I was in love with soccer. I used to go through practice just sitting on the ball.

“In the first game of the season, I took the ball off the kickoff, dribbled down, and scored a goal. Then I slid on my stomach to celebrate. I guess that was about the time I decided to put more of myself into soccer.”

Lynch has put a lot of himself into soccer and is realizing the rewards for his hard work. Wright State’s junior midfielder and team captain has become one of the nation’s most productive offensive players. He led NCAA Division I with 13 assists as a sophomore in 2014 and was named Horizon League Player of the Year.

His primary goal for 2015 is to lead the Raiders to a league championship and a spot

in the NCAA championship tournament—a realistic goal, thanks to Lynch and a run of solid recruiting classes.

“Eric is a special finisher who also has a knack for finding open players and giving us assists,” Raiders coach Bryan Davis said. “That all goes back to the way he trains and carries himself. He approaches every practice with an extremely workmanlike attitude. He wants more than what he already has. That is why he is our captain.”

Lynch also tied for the team lead with seven goals in 2014 as the Raiders finished 12-7-2, the most victories in a season since 2001.

Lynch was raised in an athletic family that includes older brother Chris, a four-year starter at Walsh University; younger brother Mark, who plays for Bellbrook High School; and cousin Julie Johnston, a defender on the World Cup-winning U.S. Women’s National Team.

The three-time all-state star at Bellbrook scored 110 career goals in high school and was recruited by Ohio State, Michigan State, and Louisville. Wright State showed the most interest, however, and was close to home.

“He made a brave choice, a choice that takes guts, to be part of the changes that were going on at Wright State,” Davis said.

That choice appears to be paying off for both the Raiders and Lynch as they consider the potential of the 2015 season.

“I think we can definitely win it (the Horizon League) this year and go far in the NCAA tournament,” Lynch said. “This year and year after, I think we’re going to be incredible.”

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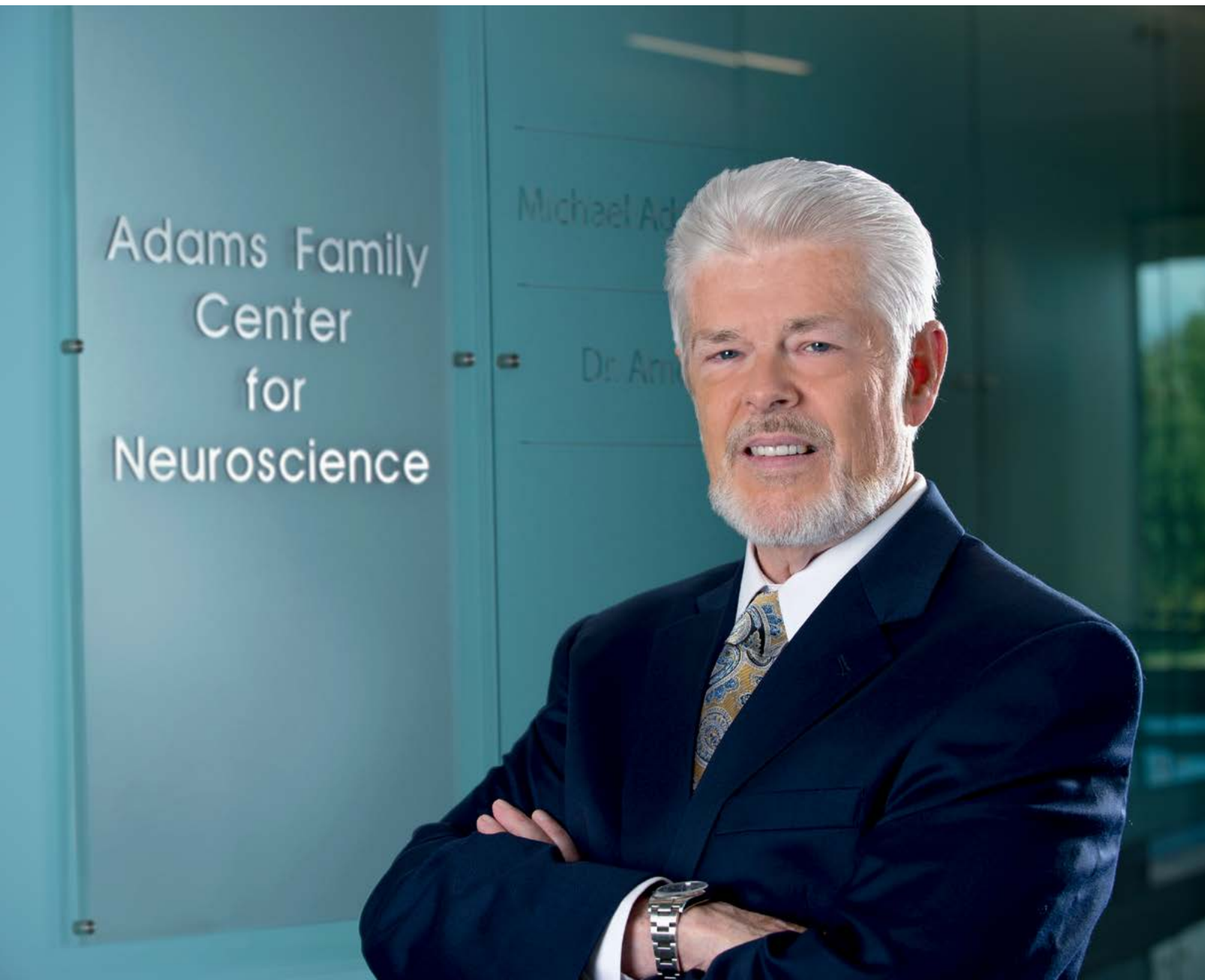




Neuroscience Engineering  
Collaboration

RISE. SHINE.

The Campaign for Wright State University



## RISE. SHINE.

These two simple words encompass the spirit at Wright State University. We envision a future where Wright State is a new model for higher education: a public institution that's imaginative, fearless, and nimble in adapting to the needs of a fast-changing world. Through *Rise. Shine. The Campaign for Wright State University*, we will expand our curriculum and attract top-flight faculty. We will build world-class facilities and invest in research that advances knowledge and creates jobs. We will engage with our community to solve real problems and provide more scholarships for our hard-working students.

# MIKE ADAMS

- > For Mike Adams, president and CEO of Adams Robinson Enterprises, Inc., getting involved with Wright State's Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration (NEC) Building has become more than just giving back to his alma mater; it's a family affair.

"I was hoping to do something that would transcend from one generation to the next and to further demonstrate the importance of giving back to the community," says Adams, when discussing his family's gift for the Adams Family Center for Neuroscience.

A 1970 graduate of Wright State, Adams first heard about the university's growing interest in neuroscience nearly 15 years ago when he served on the Board of Trustees.

"The field of neuroscience is growing dramatically," he explains. "It is our family's hope and desire that our investment in the Adams Family Center for Neuroscience will inspire others to support the groundbreaking research that is occurring here at Wright

State University. This is an extraordinary program where the mysteries of medicine will be unraveled and lives will be changed for generations to come."

The Adams family also has a very personal connection to the ongoing research in the NEC Building. Mike's sister was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at age 36. Now 53, she's been able to lead a normal and productive life thanks to similar research that has helped slow the progression of her disease.

"We are pleased to play a part in helping solve the neurological disorders that affect our families, our friends, and the population at large," says Adams.



## THINK. BIG.

Wright State University's spectacular new Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building promises to spawn pioneering research and medical breakthroughs. The four-story, L-shaped structure features two wings—one for neuroscience and one for engineering—that flank a central atrium. The building is the first of its kind to be intentionally designed to foster research projects that break new ground in treating brain, spinal cord, and nerve disorders by putting neuroscientists, engineers, and clinicians under the same roof and creating an environment that enables them to collaborate and feed off of each other's ideas and skills.

# AMOL SOIN

- > “I don’t see many building names with the word ‘collaboration’ in the title,” observes Amol Soin, M.D., as he sits in a conference room inside the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building.

“I was really excited that they were doing something like this, because I appreciated the desire to do something different and unique. I thought marrying those two particular aspects—neuroscience and engineering—was really a good idea.”

Soin will have the opportunity to experience the unique synergies between disciplines firsthand in the Amol Soin Laboratory for Translational Research. There, he will work with students from the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine on a variety of research projects that can be translated into real-world applications.

A specialist in pain management, Soin may even collaborate with student researchers and faculty on new ways to treat pain without

addicting drugs. Soin’s own groundbreaking work includes developing a new medication to control diabetic neuropathy pain and alleviating amputation stump pain through electrical stimulation.

But the primary motivation behind Soin’s gift is his desire to support the community and the university. He also sees the long-term economic benefits from taking such an innovative approach to looking at the human body.

“There could be a lot of potential new treatments and therapies that come out of this building and the research that’s done here. This could be an incubator of sorts to create intellectual property and perhaps start-up companies,” he explains. “Sometimes great things can happen when you can look at things through a different lens.”

# RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

It's an exciting idea—enabling amputees to actually feel baseballs, eggs, coffee cups, and other objects they grasp with artificial arms. And that's exactly what Wright State neuroengineer and assistant professor Sherif M. Elbasiouny, Ph.D., has set his sights on.

Elbasiouny has a three-year, \$433,000 research grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to try to make upper limb prostheses feel and function like natural limbs.

In addition to his work on artificial limbs, Elbasiouny has a five-year, \$1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease. "Our mission as a lab is to help

people with disabilities have a better life," he says. "This is why we do the work we do."

Since opening in April 2015, the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building has become a new home for pioneering research on Wright State's campus. It also houses sophisticated technologies such as an \$800,000 PET/CT scanner. Wright State is one of only a few universities that have this body-scanning technology, which is at the forefront of medical diagnosing.

"This puts us on the same level as big universities," says assistant engineering professor Nasser Kashou, Ph.D. "It's giving us recognition across the state of Ohio and hopefully the nation."

30

RESEARCHERS

90,000

square feet, including 55,000 square feet of laboratory space

105

seat auditorium for research symposia

298

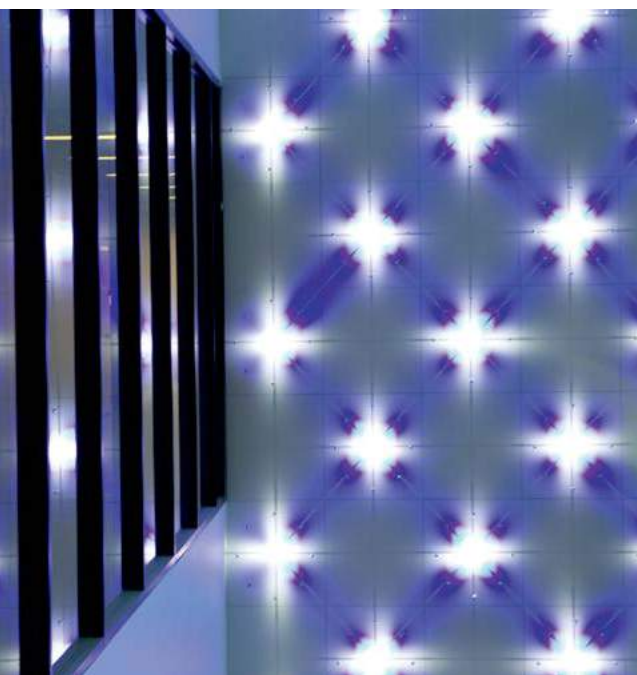
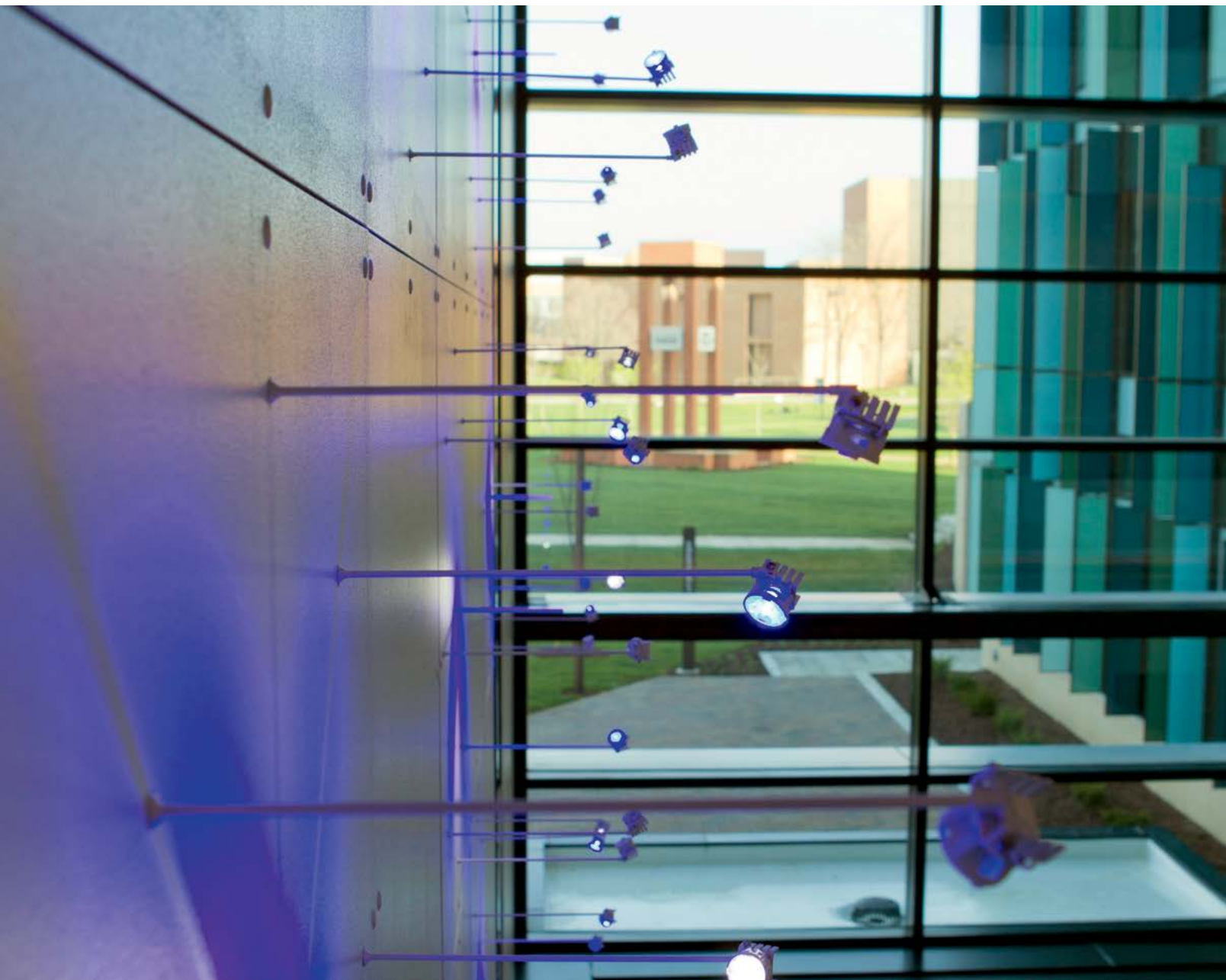
glass fins on the building's façade provide shading and reduce heat buildup on sunny days

35

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< *Dial*, a light installation designed to mimic the firing of the brain's neurons, provides a visually stunning welcome into the atrium of the NEC Building. Created by Ohio artist Erwin Redl, the installation consists of 45 dials arranged in diamond grids with LED lights programmed to produce complex, perpetually shifting patterns of light and shadow.



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