

# WRIGHT STATE

## UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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academy award-winning actor/producer leaves  
lasting mark on wright state university

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TEWAY

A photograph of a yellow metal footbridge with green lettering spelling 'TEWAY' on its railing. The bridge is set against a clear blue sky and a green landscape with a road in the foreground.

*An enhanced photograph of the Wright State Way footbridge that crosses I-675 to provide access to the North Fairfield Road retail area.*



**President David R. Hopkins congratulates Cathy Wolfe for 40 years of service at this year's Employee Recognition Awards ceremony.**

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

2016 was a banner year in the history of Wright State University. In April, we welcomed Academy Award-winning actor, producer, and director Tom Hanks to campus. A longtime supporter of our great university, Tom also happens to be the national honorary chair of *Rise. Shine. The Campaign for Wright State University*.

In this issue, we'll take you through Tom's entire itinerary, from the moment he landed in Dayton to the final minutes of his two-day tour of Wright State and historic aviation sites in our region. Tom's visit also coincided with a trip to Dayton by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian David McCullough. As you might have heard, Tom and David will be collaborating on an HBO miniseries based on David's latest book about our namesakes, the Wright brothers.

While a visit from Tom Hanks and David McCullough would be the highlight of any year, there were many other memorable moments in 2016, including the completion of a two-year project to modernize and expand our Creative Arts Center, the opening of the New Media Incubator, and a \$1.5 million gift from alumna Shirley Berry and her husband, John, for student success initiatives.

While 2016 was an incredible year, we have much to look forward to in 2017 as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Wright State University! Thank you for your continued support of Wright State. I wish you good health and much happiness this year.

Warmest regards from campus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Hopkins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David R. Hopkins  
President, Wright State University

# hanks for the memories

academy award-winning actor and producer tom hanks leaves lasting imprint on dayton, wright state university

BY JIM HANNAH

TOM HANKS of *Forrest Gump/Saving Private Ryan* fame was on campus, and excitement was at a fever pitch.

Nearly 2,000 students, faculty, and staff had amassed outside Wright State University's Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures on April 19 to catch a glimpse of the acclaimed actor, producer, and director. Some had waited for up to three hours.

Hanks was inside the newly renovated building, getting a tour of the center in preparation for the outside dedication ceremony. When he emerged, he was greeted by a roar from the crowd, a chorus of trumpet-playing music students, and a forest of television cameras.

"Is this an incredible day in the history of our university or not?" said President David R. Hopkins. "We get to be the first and the only university to name a building housing a world-class program after Tom Hanks. That's pretty special."

For Hanks, it was part of a two-day, whirlwind tour of Wright State and historic aviation sites in the Dayton area.

Hanks was able to put his hands on the original 1905 Wright Flyer, the world's first practical airplane. He stood on the historic prairie where the Wright brothers perfected the aircraft. At Wright State, he dazzled hundreds of performing arts students with a personal sharing of his life and experience. And he charmed a campus with his warmth and humor.



Hanks is the genuine article. His motor never stops running. His creative furnace never stops roaring. He has an infectious enthusiasm. And he doesn't mail it in. He touches people.

From the moment his sleek, white charter plane touched down at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport, there were the jokes—Tom Hanks-size jokes.

Hanks starts to walk out of the plane and then jokingly turned around as if changing his mind.

When he does emerge, the two-time Academy Award-winning actor, producer, and director looks larger than life. Dressed in jeans, a dark sport coat, and black square-toed boots, he sports sunglasses and has a travel bag slung over his shoulder.

The greeting party includes Hopkins, Wright brothers descendants Amanda Wright Lane and Stephen Wright, and Stuart McDowell, artistic director of the Wright State Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures and a longtime friend of Hanks.

Just down the taxiway is the Wright "B" Flyer, a replica of the Wright brothers' first production airplane—the Model B.

Hanks tells his wife, actress and singer Rita Wilson, that her baggage won't fit on the Flyer, that it will require some bungee cords. And he suggests to Hopkins that he fly the plane and land it on Wright State's campus.

Volunteers fire up the plane and do a brief takeoff and landing. Hanks takes it all in.

"Do you ever get a groundspeed of nil? You're just hovering there?" he asks.

As the entourage leaves the airport gate in a two-vehicle caravan, an autograph seeker with a movie poster stands in the parking lot. Hanks stops and obliges.

The entourage arrives at Hawthorn Hill, the Oakwood mansion of Orville Wright, and pulls into the driveway for a slow-motion drive-by. Then it's on to Carillon Historical Park.

The group is greeted at the gate by President and CEO Brady Kress, who escorts the vehicles onto the site in a 1911 Model T. Hanks asks Kress to blow the horn and then later gets a lesson on the handcrank starter.

"I thought it would be kind of fun for Tom to see the car and for the production crew to see what kind of assets are in town," says Kress.

Hanks' film production company, Playtone, is collaborating with two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough



to transform his 2015 *New York Times* No. 1 bestseller *The Wright Brothers* into an HBO miniseries. Local officials hope some of it will be filmed in the Dayton area.

The entourage enters the Wright Brothers Aviation Center, which houses the original 1905 Wright Flyer III, the world's first practical airplane. But the first stop is a replica of the Wrights' bicycle shop.

"I just love the leather belt drives," Hanks says. "Boy, you could get your hair caught in a lot of things."

In another room there is the propeller of the Wright aircraft used in the 1908 flight at LeMans, France, and the sewing machine the Wright brothers used to sew the fabric for the wings.

"And it's just sitting here? Shouldn't it be behind some security guards?" Hanks says.

Hanks is then permitted to step down into a pit and inspect the 1905 Wright Flyer. He is told that the Wrights painted the plane's wooden spars silver to confuse competing inventors trying to copy the design into thinking the spars were metal and would thus design planes too heavy to fly.

"So once again, they were diabolical geniuses," he says. "Very smart. That's brilliant."

Kress was impressed with Hanks' grasp of aviation history.

"Not only did he have a good knowledge of the story to begin with, his follow-up questions were really great," Kress said. "He was very genuine and very interested."

The entourage arrives at the Wright Cycle Shop in Wright-Dunbar Village. Hanks gets a lesson in the Wrights' bicycle-building history from a park ranger.

Hanks eyeballs the display of a Draisin highwheel, whose monster-sized front wheel and tiny back wheel would sometimes lead to riders being hurtled over the handlebars.

"This would kill you," he quips.

The autograph seeker who stopped Hanks at the airport is waiting with his son outside the cycle shop when the entourage emerges. Hanks graciously agrees to pose with the boy for photos and jokes with him.

"Don't drink and drive. Stay in school," Hanks says.

The entourage arrives at the Wright Company Factory Site. The factory is the birthplace of America's aerospace industry—the first American factory built for the purpose of manufacturing airplanes.

The Hanks entourage later arrives at the National Museum of the United States Air Force for a reception and dinner. In the lobby, Hanks jokes about making a movie in which the plot would be about stealing one of the museum's planes.

The reception and dinner is held in a hangar right next to Bockscar, the B-29 bomber that dropped a nuclear bomb over the Japanese city of Nagasaki during World War II in the second—and last—nuclear attack in history.

Hanks is very knowledgeable about Bockscar and many of the planes in the museum. He readily shares that information with anyone within earshot.

"This is the stuff that fills my head," he says.

At Hanks' table are Lt. Gen. Jack Hudson, museum director; Jack Hampshire, a 90-year-old military veteran and museum volunteer; and five Wright State students who are military veterans.

After dinner, Hanks, who has an extensive private collection of manual typewriters, is shown a display featuring several manual typewriters used by the military over the years. There is also a robin's egg blue electric typewriter used by President Kennedy on Air Force One to make changes to speeches.

Arms linked behind his back, Hanks then strolls through the museum with Hudson. They walked past the B-17 Shoo Shoo Baby, the silver goblets that commemorate the 80 men who flew the Doolittle Raid against Japan in 1942, and the balloon gondola from which Joseph Kittinger jumped from a then-record height of more than 102,000 feet.

"I think that would have been a blast," Hanks says. "Go up as high as you can and then jump out."

Then comes a very special moment.

Hanks steps inside the Air Force One that carried the body of President John F. Kennedy

home from the 1963 assassination in Dallas.

Here is where they removed two rows of seats to get the casket into the cabin, Hanks is told. Here is where Jackie was sitting. Here is where Lyndon Johnson was sworn in.

The plane is thick with world-changing history, a history that has a spectral, ghost-like presence. And Hanks is visibly moved.

"Man oh man," he exhales after emerging from the aircraft. "That is an important time capsule."

The next day, Hanks leaves his hotel for Huffman Prairie, the historic site where the Wright brothers created a dependable, fully controllable airplane and trained themselves to be pilots. Hanks is dressed in a dark suit and black shirt, looking every bit the Robert Langdon character in *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*.

During the ride over, Hanks talks movies.

"Nothing is more fun for everybody at the office than to sit around in pre-production and just talk story," he says. "It's people who have read everything and are excited about everything, and we sit around for months and say, 'What if we do this? What if we try this?'"

Hanks says making a movie is always a "grand adventure." The movie *Cloud Atlas* was all of that.

"Every day on that movie was a labor of love. We worked hard," he says. "On our last day—I worked with Halle Berry—we all burst into tears because the movie was over and we didn't want it to end."

*A League of Their Own* was filmed in a small Indiana town, with Hanks and his family living in a big house surrounded by lush, green fields.

"My kids swam in a wading pool and we ate Dairy Queen every night. It was a beautiful, idyllic summer," he says. "And if you ask my kids what was the best summer they ever had, they say that time we made *A League of Their Own*."

After arriving at Huffman Prairie, Hanks takes in the vista. White flags mark the perimeter of the field where the Wrights flew.

Hanks then talks with the park rangers about their job, tells them he would have come to Huffman Prairie as a tourist, and then has a suggestion.

"I'd bring some cows in," he says, "even if they are cardboard cutouts."

Then it's on to Wright State.

Hanks' first contact with Wright State came in 1978, when he was a young actor with the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival in Cleveland. As part of a tour, Hanks performed at Wright State in Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Then Hanks went to New York and—after about six months of being unemployed—auditioned for the Riverside Shakespeare Company of New York, which was founded by Wright State's Stuart McDowell.

"We cast him right off the street in the lead of Machiavelli's *The Mandrake*, playing the role of Callimaco," McDowell recalled. "He was phenomenal. He had an incredible sense of improvisation and stage presence. He would come out during the opening of the show and riff with the audience, do an improv."

As a result of his role in the play, Hanks was able to secure an agent, who took him and his blossoming career to Hollywood. Hanks would go on to star in blockbuster films such as *Forrest Gump*, *Apollo 13*, and *Saving Private Ryan*, and win several Academy Awards.

## Hanks is the genuine article. His motor never stops running. His creative furnace never stops roaring. He has an infectious enthusiasm. And he doesn't mail it in. He touches people.

In 1998, Hanks gave Wright State money to launch a scholarship fund in his name. So far, the fund has provided scholarship money to more than 60 students in acting/musical theatre, dance, design technology, and theatre studies.

After the huge success of Hanks' movie *The Da Vinci Code*, he agreed to have tea in Rome on the set of *Angels and Demons* with the winning bidders of a Wright State ArtsGala auction item. The *Tea with Tom Hanks* sessions yielded thousands of dollars for ArtsGala scholarships.

In 2011, Hanks in a taped video gave a glowing endorsement of Wright State's arts programs during a news conference to announce that the university's Collaborative Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts (CELIA) center had been designated an Ohio Center of Excellence for the arts.

"Wright State is training the artists of tomorrow. I know because I've worked with some of Wright State's alumni, and they're among the best in their fields," Hanks said. "Wright State not only has one of the most outstanding arts programs in Ohio, but one of the best in the entire nation."

When Hanks arrives on campus April 19, he slips into a side stage door of the Creative Arts Center. Inside the Festival Playhouse are 300 performing-arts students eager to see and hear Hanks in a "Talk Back" session.

For the next 90 minutes, Hanks answers questions and throws his heart into it, dazzling the audience with anecdotes and taking them behind the scenes of Hollywood. He's playful, honest, giving.

"Out of all the jobs in making movies, the one I like to do most is being the star of the movie. It's a pretty good gig," he says "...At the end of the day, it's more fun than anything you can possibly imagine."

On the making of *Forrest Gump*: Hanks modeled the way he talked in the film after the speech of the Mississippi boy who played the young Forrest. The first scene Hanks filmed in the movie was with actress Robin Wright, and he was so self-conscious that the director threw out the entire day's shoot.

"Self-consciousness is the death of any sort of creative enterprise," he says.

Hanks tells the students the importance of challenging themselves.

"I can't sing. I can't dance. But the best thing I

could have ever done for myself was try to be in a musical and sing and dance," he says. "I did it once or twice, and it scared the children."

After a walk through the tunnel system, Hanks arrives at Dunbar Library and elevators up to Special Collections and Archives, which houses the largest collection of Wright brothers materials in the world.

"I was intrigued by the tunnels," he says. "It's like living in Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*."

Along with Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough, Amanda Wright Lane, and Dawne Dewey, head of the archives, Hanks goes through a collection of Wright brother photos, sketches, writings, medals, and newspaper clippings.

Then the group views rare home movies of Orville Wright. They also show the 1927 arrival at Wright Field in Dayton of Charles Lindbergh, who made the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic. He is seen riding in a car with Orville.

After the movies there is a discussion of historical things, and McCullough mentions that he still writes on a manual typewriter. He says he marvels at Hanks' extensive collection

of manual typewriters.

"No one throws away a typewritten letter," Hanks says. "I probably send a letter out—two or three every day. I sent a letter to a kid who wrote to *Forrest Gump* the other day. So Forrest answered him on the typewriter: 'My friend Tom Hanks is typing this for me.'"

Hanks then has lunch at the library with six Tom Hanks scholars as well as Hopkins, his wife, Angelia, and Kristin Sobolik, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Hanks talks about the business and how it is to break in and reinvent oneself.

Then he walks through the tunnels to the New Media Incubator, a partnership between the motion pictures center and the Department of Communication to teach storytelling. He sees a television and recording studio and a *Veterans Voices* project, a series of stories on local veterans' experiences transitioning to civilian life.

Hanks starred in what some consider the best war movie ever made in *Saving Private Ryan*.

"What a great facility," he says. "I could get some work done here myself."

Then it's on to the center itself, where Hanks visits four motion pictures classes and takes questions from students.

He encourages students in one class to watch a movie called *The Earrings of Madam de...*, a 1953 French film that follows a pair of earrings as they change hands during a series of betrayals and romances.

"It is the most modern film you will ever come across," he says. "My eyes popped out of my head. I could not believe this movie. It's the cinematic equal to *Citizen Kane*."

"Go make movies, guys. Save the world."

As Hanks walks through the lobby of the center, he is riveted by a wall-mounted monitor that flashes scenes from Hanks movies at a rapid-fire clip.

"Hey, look at this. I can name that tune. *Bridge of Spies*. Freezing cold. Freezing cold. The actual bridge."

Then come clips from *A League of Their Own* and *Forrest Gump*, the scene in which Gump carries Bubba to safety from a battle in Vietnam.

"Actually did not carry him. It was a rig. ... No crying in baseball. I actually thought I was fat when I made this movie."

Tour over. Dedication ceremony looms. Hanks emerges from the building and bathes in the crowd's warm embrace.

Hanks jokingly warns students against defacing the building, whose striking blue color sets it apart from other campus structures.

"It's nice to have the building. It's nice



Hanks with Wright State students during a talk-back session in the Creative Arts Center.

to have the crisp editing rooms. It's nice to have the brand new equipment. It's nice to have all of the gear that goes along with it," he says. "But that's not the measure of a school's greatness, and it's not the measure of the quality of the student body that Wright State is going to produce."

Student Matt Cline, a junior who dressed as the famous Hanks character Forrest Gump for the dedication ceremony, calls Hanks one of the best actors ever.

"It makes me proud to be a student here and that Wright State gets national attention," says Cline.

The motion pictures program is now entering its fifth decade and features nationally recognized faculty and alumni who have won Emmys and other high honors. Faculty have produced internationally acclaimed documentaries such as *The Last Truck: The Closing of a GM Plant*, nominated for an Academy Award in 2010, and the Emmy Award-winning *Lion in the House*, about young cancer patients and their families.

"The Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures will become a new landmark on the

Wright State University campus and symbolize our ongoing commitment to producing the filmmakers of tomorrow," said Sobolik. "Our students and alumni will carry on Tom's legacy of making movies that matter."

In addition to getting hands-on experience in all aspects of filmmaking, students complete a curriculum that is deeply embedded in the liberal arts and strongly rooted in motion pictures history, theory, and criticism. The program also stresses the humanist values of movies—the potential for movies to make the world a better place by sharing the human experience, illustrating courage, and showing what people have overcome.

Film student Michaela Scholl thanks Hanks for allowing Wright State to name the center after him.

"We can now say we studied every day at the Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures," says Scholl. "That's a bragging right that only a Wright State student can claim."

At 14,500 square feet, the new center is nearly triple the size of the previous space. In addition to a production studio, there are editing suites, a multipurpose classroom, a

digital animation lab, and even a "green room" that will serve as a lounge as well as a think-tank for students to develop future film projects.

After the dedication ceremony, Hanks is off to a gala celebration at the Wright State Nutter Center to celebrate the success of the university's *Rise. Shine.* campaign.

Hanks is national co-chair of *Rise. Shine.*, the fundraising campaign that promises to further elevate Wright State's prominence by expanding scholarships, attracting more top-flight faculty and supporting construction of state-of-the-art facilities. The campaign has raised more than \$160 million.

What you have at Wright State is a "life-altering force for good," Hanks tells the gathering at the gala, which alone raised \$275,000 for scholarships and the Tom Hanks Visiting Artist Fund.

"Everybody who contributed to the *Rise. Shine.* campaign has already changed lives for the good," says Hanks.

The contributors have "done something great, not just for Wright State, not just for Dayton, Ohio, but something magnificent for the world." **W**

## collection companions

author david mccullough joined tom hanks in combing through rare wright brothers artifacts

CONTRIBUTED BY  
TIMOTHY R. GAFFNEY,  
NATIONAL AVIATION HERITAGE ALLIANCE

below: Hanks studies Wright brothers photos.  
right: McCullough teaches a master class.



PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR David McCullough returned to Wright State University just as actor-filmmaker Tom Hanks was making his campus visit, joining him to examine artifacts that are part of the university's Wright Brothers Collection.

In nearly five years of research for his bestselling book *The Wright Brothers*, McCullough came to know the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright more closely than he knew his closest friends.

He did it by being a snoop.

In a distinguished career of writing historical narratives such as *Truman*, *John Adams*—both of which earned him the Pulitzer Prize for biography—and, last year, *The Wright Brothers*, McCullough was able to play Peeping Tom on some of the great figures of history, he told a master class at Wright State on April 19.

"I've been keeping company with a lot of impressive people in my years writing books, and if you spend three, four, five, as many as 10 years with someone you never knew and has long passed from the scene, you get to know that person very well in many ways, better than you know people in real life. Because in real life you don't get to read other people's mail," he said.

Fortunately for historians and writers like McCullough, the Wright brothers were talented and prolific writers.

"The letters the Wright brothers wrote in private correspondence, within the family almost entirely, number over a thousand in the Library of Congress. And none of them—none of the four, the father (Bishop Milton Wright); the sister, Katharine; and the two brothers—



were capable of writing a short letter or a boring one. They were absolutely superbly written. We can go into their lives in a way that we can't normally," McCullough told the class.

Many more papers survive in the Wright State University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives. McCullough frequented both collections in his research.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh and now living in Boston, McCullough returned to Wright State and connected with Hanks, who was dedicating the Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures and taking part in a fundraising gala for the university's *Rise. Shine.* campaign.

During their visit to campus, Hanks and McCullough toured the archives and examined rare Wright artifacts that are part of the Wright Brothers Collection, one of the most complete collections of Wright material in the world. The collection includes the Wrights' own technical and personal library, family papers, and other documents detailing the lives and work of Wilbur and Orville Wright and the Wright family.

In his master class, McCullough, who holds a degree in English literature from Yale University, made a case for the humanities and used the Wright brothers as evidence.

"One of the joys of my work on the Wright brothers was to realize that these two men, who cracked one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult problems of all time, had only an education in the humanities. And they got it at home," he said.

The Wright family letters are important in helping us know Wilbur

and Orville not only for what they did, but who they were, McCullough said. And understanding how individuals change history requires understanding how they live, he added.

"I think the Wright brothers are a lesson in history if ever there was," McCullough said—not just in their invention of the airplane, "but how they went about their pursuit of purpose and the dedication they brought to their work, and the fact that they did not let failure defeat them. They could get knocked down, and they did in many ways, but they always got back up again, and they always learned from their mistakes or their failures."

At the close of the 19th century, Wilbur and Orville began attacking the problem of flight, and by the end of 1903 they made the first controlled, powered flight in a heavier-than-air machine. By the end of 1909 they were selling airplanes in the United States and Europe, and by the end of 1910 they had erected the first American factory for airplane manufacturing.

McCullough used the Wright brothers to underscore how individuals can change history and why it's important to know them.

"They changed the world. Changed history. Who were they? And how many times have we been flying at 35, 40,000 feet at 500, 600 miles an hour thinking nothing of it?" he asked rhetorically. "Who did it, and why in the world aren't they better known, and why weren't we told more about them, and what kind of people they were, and what kind of values they had, and what we can learn from them by not just what they accomplished, but how they conducted themselves in life and in their community?" **W**

# STUDY ABROAD





# going places

## m.b.a. student tasha fox turns college experience into whirlwind of overseas study, volunteering

By JIM HANNAH

SLEEPING IN THE SAHARA Desert, teaching in China, and witnessing political violence in Jerusalem were just stops along the way for Tasha Fox, a Wright State University M.B.A. student who turned her undergraduate career into a priceless lesson in world geography and culture.

And this of a student who nearly cut short her first trip overseas after being overwhelmed by the language challenges and trying to fit in.

"I got to travel the world while getting my degree," said Fox. "It challenges you to look at the world in a different way. It challenges you to look at yourself in a different light. I think I've learned more about myself traveling than anything."

Fox grew up in Xenia, Ohio. Her father works at Wright State in Student Health Services, and her mother, who got her M.B.A. at Wright State, works as a project manager for Hewlett-Packard Enterprise.

After graduating from Yellow Springs High School in 2011, Fox spent a year in Brussels, Belgium, as an exchange student. Although she had taken French in high school, she initially struggled a bit in communicating with her French-speaking classmates and Belgian residents.

At one point, she felt it was too much to overcome and thought about returning home.

"But it ended up being one of the best experiences I could ever hope for because it pushed me in a way that I'd never been challenged before," she said. "I ended up learning French, and I never thought I was capable of that."

When Fox returned to the United States, she enrolled at Wright State because it was financially attractive and she was offered several scholarships.

During her freshman year she went on a three-week study abroad trip to the African nation of Tanzania, organized by the College of Nursing and Health.

"We worked with an orphanage. And we worked with patients who had HIV/AIDS," she said.

In the fall of 2013, Fox got a scholarship to teach English in China—near the northeastern city of Dalian—for a semester.

"It was a culture I had never really been exposed to," she said. "Chinese was a language which was not attainable in my mind. But I learned a lot more than

I thought I was going to. By the end of it, we all had to have a 10-minute conversation in Chinese for our final exam."

In January 2015, Fox left the country again to study in France, taking classes in business, French culture, and geopolitics at two different universities.

Then over the summer, she traveled on her own to Morocco and took the opportunity to do some camping in the Sahara Desert. (It was chilly, and she didn't experience any sandstorms.)

Then Fox went to Israel, where she volunteered for six weeks at Project Harmony, an English summer camp in Jerusalem for Jewish and Arab Israeli children.

"I think Israel was one of the most life-changing experiences I've had," she said. "I went into it pretty naive. I didn't know what I was in for. I had known a little bit about the conflict, but not enough."

Fox said she was surprised at the open racism in day-to-day life. The school where she was teaching was spray-painted with hateful graffiti, and she witnessed a stabbing at a gay pride parade.

"Everyone in front of me turned around and ran, and I knew something bad had happened," she said. "I was really close. I jumped up on a wall to see what was going on and could see bodies and blood."

An ultra-Orthodox Jew was arrested in the stabbing, which claimed the life of a 16-year-old and injured five other people.

Fox returned to the United States in the winter of 2015, graduated the following April with her bachelor's degree in French, and is now pursuing her M.B.A. at the Raj Soin College of Business, where she works as a graduate assistant.

She is not sure about her career path.

"I'm really interested in peaceful conflict resolution after going to Israel," she said. "International law is really appealing to me. Working with refugees or immigrants in the United States would be amazing."

Fox credits Wright State with giving her the chance to see the world and learn about other peoples and cultures.

"I've been blown away by the number of opportunities that they have had for me to study abroad and the scholarships they offer," she said. "Everything is there; you just have to go for it." **W**

# circuit judge

## wright state's jeremy hong turns interest in electrical engineering into electronics company

BY JIM HANNAH

HE'S A WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY electrical engineering student, a ham radio operator, and the founder of his own electronics company. But it's Jeremy Hong's digital sunglasses, whose colorful LED lights gyrate to dance music, that really get your attention.

The creation of those pulsating party shades landed Hong on the cover of the University of Pennsylvania's engineering magazine after he showed up with them at a hackathon engineering challenge in Philadelphia and was dubbed The Walking Rave.

Hong is no stranger to nicknames. He is also sometimes called The Hongger or DJ Hong, for his disc jockey work at parties playing electronic dance music and "making cool sounds with circuits."

Hong has an infectious laugh and sense of humor. On this particular day, he is wearing a black hoodie with the words: "Trust me, I'm an engineer." And his laptop computer is plastered with a riot of colorful stickers.

Hong just seems to be having a lot of fun. But his accomplishments are many.

He spent much of his childhood in Dublin, Ohio, the son of South Korean immigrants and whose father is a computer programmer. As a boy, Hong was deep into Legos, those colorful interlocking plastic bricks that can be used to create buildings, vehicles, and even working robots.

After following the instructions and building the contraption for which the Lego kit was designed, Hong would take it apart and make something totally different, such as an aircraft, spaceship, or castle.

Hong's interest in electrical engineering exploded in middle school after he saw *Iron Man*, which featured superhero electrical engineer Tony Stark.

At Dublin-Scioto High School, Hong joined the robotics team, which he would eventually lead.

"It turned out to be the best thing ever," said Hong. "I fit right into electronics group."

The team built a robot that shot basketballs at a hoop.

"They weren't kidding when they say, 'It's the hardest fun you'll ever have.' It really is," said Hong. "When you get thrown into it, it's kind of overwhelming. It's really commercial-grade electronics. We had to weld stuff together and all the soldering of little electronic parts. It was quite involved."

By the beginning of his junior year in high school, Hong could read schematics and assemble circuit boards. He set up an electronics laboratory in the rear of his mother's alterations business, where he built and sold phone chargers made from Altoids tins and nine-volt batteries.

About the same time, Hong started a blog that would lead to him founding Hong's

Electronics, a company that resells hobby kits and refurbished electronic testing equipment to engineers and hobbyists.

Hong's blog caught the attention of a professor at Case Western Reserve University, who recruited him with a campus visit and a tour of the university's circuits lab.

But Hong later discovered Wright State during a visit to Dayton, when he stopped at Mendelson's and Midwest Surplus to stock up on resistors, capacitors, and other electronic components.

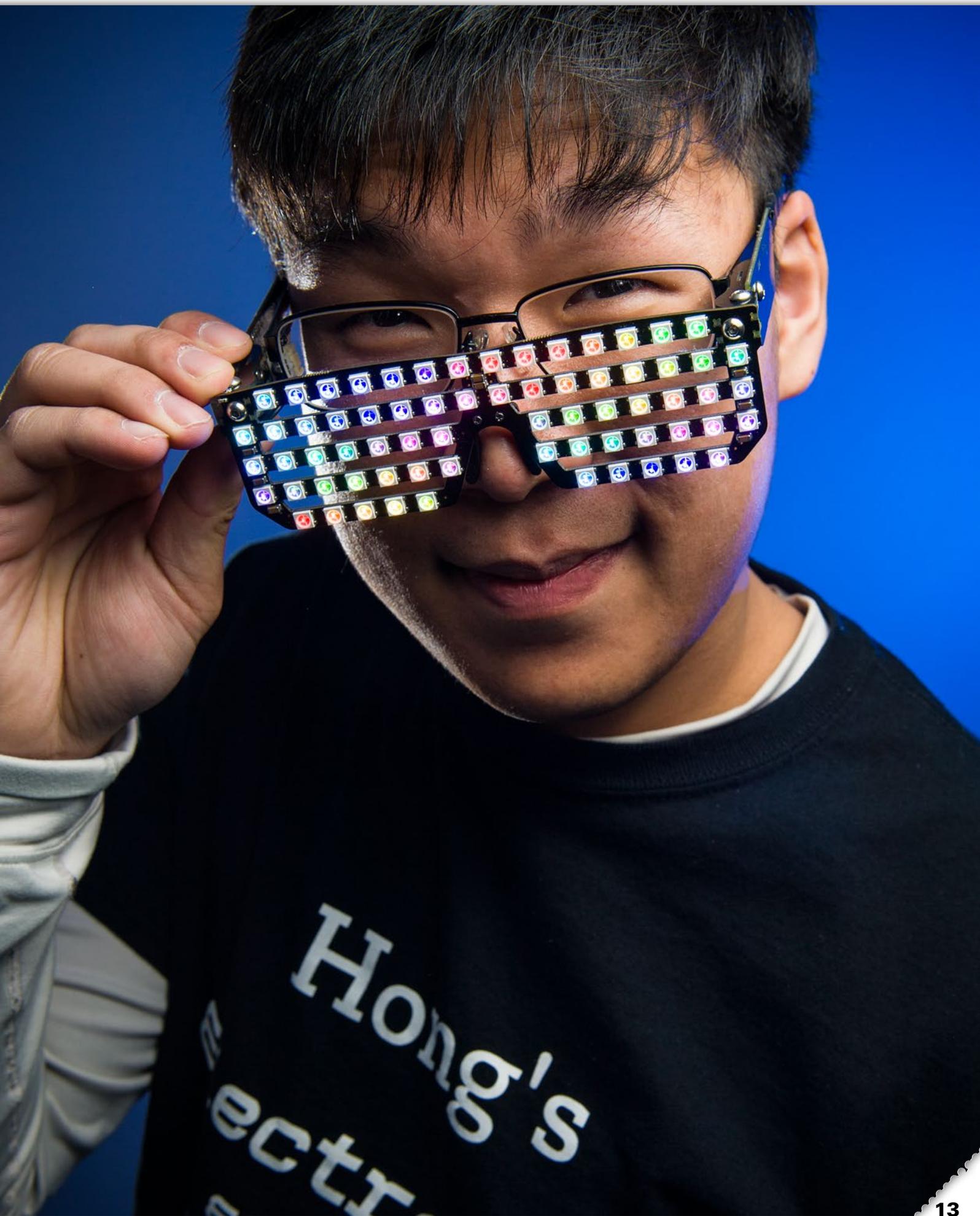
Wright State's affordability and academically strong College of Engineering and Computer Science won him over.

Hong works as a lab assistant and consultant for the Department of Electrical Engineering. He recently helped build an oversized, ceremonial light switch for the holiday tree lighting ceremony on Courthouse Square in Dayton. And he is interning at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, helping design and verify complex circuit boards.

"It's stuff I could never dream of doing at home," he said.

Hong hopes to get his master's degree in electrical engineering and study power electronics. He wants to run Hong's Electronics full time, but is also interested in defense and space electronics.

"There is no better place for engineering students than Wright State. The defense contractors in the area are looking for interns," he said. "If I could describe Wright State in one word, it is opportunity." **W**





## flight test

### emmanuel urquieta participates in a nasa mission simulating stresses of deep space exploration

BY BOB MIHALEK

THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE in an official NASA mission at the Johnson Space Center in Houston was a “dream come true” for 2015 Wright State University graduate Emmanuel Urquieta.

Urquieta, who earned a master’s degree in aerospace medicine from the Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine, also hopes it will help him achieve one of his career goals: working for the space agency as a flight surgeon.

For 30 days last summer, Urquieta and three other crewmembers were confined to a simulated spacecraft to help NASA study the isolation and stresses of deep space travel. The mission took place in the Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA), a modular, three-story research habitat featuring an airlock, medical station, work area, flight deck, four bunks, a galley, and a hygiene module.

The module is used by NASA’s Human Research Program to investigate ways to help the agency move from lower-Earth orbit to deep space explorations. The crew went through the procedures of a real deep space mission without leaving the building. They had the same schedule as the astronauts on the International Space Station and used the same iPad apps for work and for monitoring their health and diet.

Originally from Mexico City, Urquieta has always been interested in space and airplanes, thanks in part to his father, who is an aviation engineer. “I’ve always been around the aviation environment,” said Urquieta, who has a private pilot’s license.

After earning his medical degree from Anahuac University School of Medicine Faculty of Health Sciences in Mexico, he stayed at Anahuac University as an epidemiology assistant professor. He’s also worked

as a flight surgeon for the Mexico City Police Department Helicopter Emergency Medical Services.

He hopes to return to the Boonshoft School of Medicine for a residency in aerospace medicine and eventually return to the Johnson Space Center as a flight surgeon.

A flight surgeon plays an important role in a space mission. Typically assigned to one astronaut, the physician follows the astronaut through his or her training, monitors the astronaut's health during the mission from Mission Control, and provides care after the mission is completed.

"The flight surgeon is like the family doctor of the astronaut during the mission," Urquieta said.

That's what made Urquieta's own mission such a valuable experience. "When I'm a flight surgeon, it's going to let me take care of them in a better way because I will know exactly what they are going through," he said. "I'll have that hands-on experience. I think from the professional and personal points of view this was a great experience."

Each day of Urquieta's mission began at 7 a.m. and ended at 11 p.m., ensuring the crewmembers were well rested for the following day's activities. In between, the crew's schedules were planned almost to the

minute with training, experiments, other scientific activities, and physical exercise. They also held planning meetings with Mission Control twice a day and spent the weekends housekeeping and relaxing by watching movies.

They were allowed to talk to their families for 30 minutes once a week, though the crew had to leave their cellphones behind before entering the module.

During the mission, the crew used virtual reality goggles and hand controllers to simulate extravehicular activities on Geographos 1620, a Mars-crossing asteroid. After a simulated journey on a space exploration vehicle to the asteroid, Urquieta and another crewmember took samples during a simulated spacewalk.

"They give us different locations on the asteroid to retrieve rocks and soil samples, like they would on a real mission," he said.

The goggles provided a 360-degree view of the asteroid and a "perfectly simulated and rendered graphic representation" of its surface, Urquieta said.

After the activity, the crewmembers simulated the processing of the soil and rocks they collected virtually. They also conducted experiments to grow plants and brine shrimp as well as biomedical and

psychological experiments.

Urquieta and the other crewmembers also trained with a simulator of a robot arm used on the space station that can grab items like satellites, tools, and supplies. Astronauts on the space station also train on the simulator.

The HERA module provides a high-fidelity research space for scientists to assess risks and gaps associated with human performance during space exploration by simulating isolation, confinement, and remote conditions. Researchers outside the module collect data on team dynamics, conflict resolution, and the effects of extended isolation and confinement. Studies may focus on behavioral health and performance, communication and autonomy, human factors, and medical capabilities during exploration. It also gives researchers a chance to test new technology and hardware.

For instance, the crew tested two astronaut watches to help NASA study whether a new model is an upgrade over those now used on the International Space Station. They also tested a new iPad app that tracks the food and liquids astronauts consume.

Since the mission simulated a journey to Mars, the crew experienced communication delays with Mission Control over the course of their confinement. The crew then simulated emergencies to help researchers better understand how those delays impacted communication in certain situations.

"These analog missions help to answer a lot of questions about how you handle emergencies, how you handle special situations with very long time delays," Urquieta said.

In addition to the four-member crew, more than 50 people supported the mission. Mission Control was staffed around the clock and a flight surgeon was always on call. "There are a lot of people behind the mission who make it the way it is," Urquieta said.

For Urquieta, it was easy to give up a month of his life to contribute something for the future of space exploration.

"Thirty days sounds like a lot, but it went so fast," he said. "I've wanted to do this all my life. It was like a dream doing this." **W**



*opposite page: Emmanuel Urquieta, left, and three other crewmembers spent a month in a NASA simulated spacecraft.*

*above, left: Urquieta used virtual reality goggles and a hand controller to simulate extravehicular activities on an asteroid.*

*above, right: Urquieta in front of the vehicle used to simulate asteroid exploration missions.*

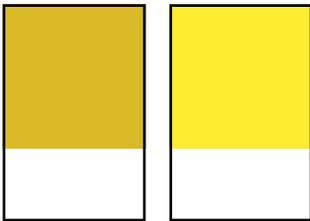
## brand new

a brief exploration of wright state's visual identity

1967



Art professor Gary Barlow designs the original university seal for President Brage Golding. The trapezoids built into the logo symbolized teaching, research, and service.

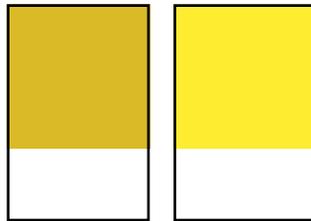


The design is originally intended to be appear in gold or yellow. The seal is used in conjunction with the font Lining Plate Gothic Heavy, but a later modification incorporated Copperplate Gothic Bold.

circa 1971

Wright State University

University designer Bea Diehl creates Wright State's first wordmark using Helvetica Bold typeface.

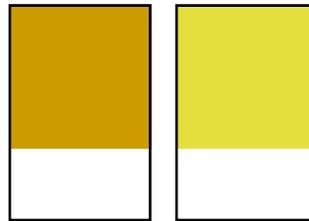


There are a few instances of greens appearing in certain mark usage, but the primary palettes consist of golds and yellows.

1973



David Battle of Vie Design Studios adapts the original university seal, providing continuity with the three bar elements, but softening the angles.

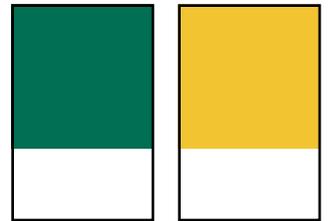


The designer selected an ochre yellow for the logo, which he felt would print more attractively than the gold/yellow previously used for the seal. This color was changed around 1974 to a yellow-green ink.

1976

Wright State University

University designer Bob Bingenheimer produces an identity system for publications and graphics using a stylized wordmark of "Wright State University" in Helvetica typeface.

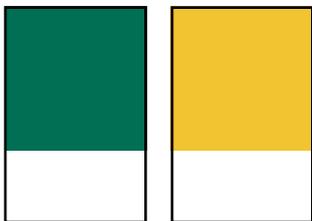


Hunter green is added to the primary color palette. A new yellow shade was selected as a second contrasting color, bringing Wright State's green and gold colors into general use.

circa 1981

**WRIGHT  
STATE**

*University designer Emily Krehbiel creates a new mark at the request of President Robert Kegerreis. "University" is omitted in favor of the more familiar "Wright State." A customized version of the Eras font is used in this precise configuration of letter shapes.*

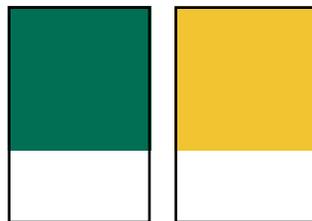


*Specifications for the use of this wordmark in publications were detailed in the Institutional Identity and Graphics Standards, indicating its use with existing logos, colors, and the marks of the two professional schools—Medicine and Professional Psychology.*

1985



*University designer Cynthia Conner develops a mark for President Paige Mulhollan to be used in print materials and signage related to his inaugural events. The logo, based on three interlocking triangles, represents the three presidents in Wright State's history (at the time), references the three trapezoidal shapes of the seal, and suggests forward movement of the university.*

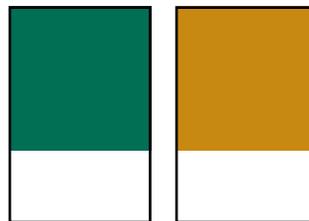


*Color specs are maintained.*

1998



*For the first time the university's logo reflects a connection with its namesakes when designer Sean Michael Edwards of SME creates this mark based on the famous 1903 photograph of Orville and Wilbur Wright.*

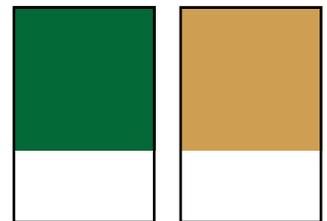


*The wordmark uses a customized version of the Perpetua font in the university's official green (Pantone 342) and gold (Pantone 139) colors.*

2016



*In 2014, President David Hopkins initiates an extensive study that results in stronger brand messaging and a structured, modern, university-wide branding system. University designer Stephen Rumbaugh updates the biplane logo with several enhancements that allow the mark more legibility on electronic devices and in print.*



*After an extensive review, colors were updated to green Pantone 349 and gold Pantone 7407 for better legibility, contrast, and harmony.*

# from wright state to hollywood

emmy award-winning screenwriter  
erik bork '89 reflects on his days as a  
motion pictures student and working  
with tom hanks

By KIM PATTON



EVEN THOUGH he's collaborated with such Hollywood A-listers as Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, Brian Grazer, and Ron Howard, Erik Bork didn't always dream of making movies.

"When I was in high school, I started gravitating toward the creative arts of some kind, but I wasn't exactly sure what that would look like," he explained. "Certainly writing, movies, and screenwriting were among the contenders."

After graduating from Beavercreek High School in 1983, Bork enrolled in Miami University's Western Program, an interdisciplinary program with a broad-based liberal arts foundation.

After a year at Miami, Bork decided to transfer to Wright State. While he was becoming more interested in film, Bork was initially an English major. He did, however, enroll in a film production class taught by Chuck Derry, who headed the motion pictures program.

When Bork told Derry he was thinking about becoming a film major, Derry advised him to take a film appreciation class so he would know for sure. That course, with its in-depth look at the films of Alfred Hitchcock, became a turning point for Bork.

"Chuck deconstructed the visual symbolism in these films in this super fascinating and passionate way," Bork recalled. "I was kind of hooked by that and decided to become a film major."

Bork's first year as a motion picture production major was also renowned documentary filmmakers Jim Klein and Julia Reichert's first year as full-time faculty.

"That was the other thing that drew me," said Bork. "I had heard about them and their prestigious credits."

Bork quickly formed special bonds with Derry, Klein, and Reichert.

"Chuck was a really demanding but very stimulating professor on the academic side of film, but I ate it up. He took a sabbatical for a year while I was here, which killed me. I really loved his classes," said Bork.

"Jim and Julia were unbelievable. You really felt like you were learning from masters," he explained. "They were incredibly generous people. When you were their students, you were at their house. You were having dinners with them. They were referring you for summer internships with friends they knew in the big city."

Bork spent his summers interning in New York City and San Francisco with independent filmmakers. He also worked as an apprentice reporter at a public radio station. All of these opportunities were made possible because of Klein and Reichert and their connections.

When he graduated in 1989, Bork left Wright State with a solid foundation in the basics of filmmaking.

"It was an incredible education in film," he recalled. "I felt very grateful that in my hometown there was that level of passion and brilliance to study under."

As a recent college graduate, Bork tried to work on local productions in Cincinnati and Dayton, primarily commercials and industrial films. But his passion was screenwriting, and he quickly figured out that to make a living as a screenwriter, Los Angeles was the place to be.

He managed a Blockbuster video store for a couple years to save up enough money to make the move to LA. Upon arriving in California, Bork's goal was to get work as an assistant—basically a secretary in the film industry—and write during his free time.

He wrote a script on spec for the television series *Frasier*—a project that helped Bork land an agent. His next big break would come from none other than Academy Award-winning actor, producer, and director Tom Hanks.

Bork was working as an assistant in Tom Hanks' office when Hanks read Bork's spec scripts for the TV series *Frasier* and *Friends*.

"He read those and offered me this incredible, life-changing promotion," said Bork.

Bork would have his own assistant and help Hanks develop projects, including the miniseries, *From the Earth to the Moon*.

"That really launched me into what became a three-year project of ultimately writing some of the scripts and being involved in every aspect of the production at a pretty high level," said Bork. "I learned producing and got a co-producer credit in the end."

He also scored an Emmy.

Bork was one of 10 producers to be honored at the 1998 Emmy Awards for Outstanding Miniseries.

"I didn't really think of it as my Emmy, because it was the group winning the Emmy. It was certainly exciting and validating and thrilling. It made other people think that I'd made it," he explained. "For me, the more significant thing was actually the work. The whole process of what I was learning, who I was working with, and what I was doing. The Emmy was just icing on the cake, but really cool icing."

That success was repeated four years later when many of the same writers, producers, and directors—with Hanks and Steven Spielberg as executive producers—received another Emmy for Outstanding Miniseries for *Band of Brothers*. Bork was once again one of the producers and wrote on multiple episodes.

While he no longer works with Hanks, Bork will always be grateful for his experiences with the legendary artist and humanitarian.

"I am in awe of the generosity that he has repeatedly shown to me and to Wright State," said Bork. "He's incredibly funny, incredibly smart. He's dedicated to and loves the creative process."

As a sign of respect and admiration for his former boss, Bork returned to Wright State in April 2016 for the dedication of the Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures. During his visit, Bork also spoke informally with current students in the motion pictures program.

Whenever he meets students, Bork encourages them to persevere in a craft that can be filled with disappointment, rejection, and heartbreak.

"It's easy to become bitter or discouraged in the industry. Try to have that same curious, eager, hungry mind. Keep working on your craft without being too concerned about the outcome," he advised. "Your own attitude is a huge part of it. Believing that it's possible."

As for Bork, more writing—and even directing—is on the horizon. He is currently working on his own original screenplays and about to embark on fundraising to make a short film.

"I never really pursued the directing thing, because I was so obsessed with how to make it as a writer and that was not always an easy thing," said Bork, who prefers to create comedies with heart.

"That wasn't what I ever did professionally or got known for doing, so you kind of have to do that on your own, start over, and show your ability at that. So I still feel like I'm a student of the craft."

As he moves into the next phase of his career, Bork is no longer worried about selling to Hollywood. He's willing to work independently and low budget to make a project that he loves.

"There have been a million experiences of rejection in one form or another that make you feel destroyed or disappointed or frustrated," he said. "But there's nothing else that I would do." **W**

## a wonderful life

**grateful for wright state's impact on their lives, ron ('76, '84) and joan amos pay it forward for future generations**

BY KIM PATTON

FOR RON AMOS, Wright State University reminds him of the 1946 Frank Capra classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Just as Jimmy Stewart's iconic character, George Bailey, finds out what life would have been like had he never been born, Ron has often wondered what his life would be like had there never been a Wright State.

As one of seven children and a first-generation college student, Ron felt like he had few options for college. It wasn't until a high school guidance counselor told him about Wright State that he realized there was an affordable choice close to home.

"I may have never gone to college had there not been a Wright State," said Ron. Like many Wright State students of yesterday and today, Ron paid for his own college education by working his way through school. He even managed to graduate without any debt.

"Wright State is perfect for someone if you're willing to work hard," said Ron. "But if you're not willing to work hard, don't go to Wright State."

Always by Ron's side during his Wright State days was the love of his life, Joan. The couple first met while ice skating at Hara Arena in 1970, when they were both 15 years old. They have been together ever since.

Joan would stay up until two or three in the morning, typing Ron's papers as he worked on his finance degree.

"I wanted to go to college, but I felt at that time that I should work and save that money for us," she explained. Joan and Ron married on June 19, 1976, just three days after Ron's graduation from Wright State. That same week, Ron also started a new job.

For someone who always had an interest in money and economics, a career in banking ended up being the perfect fit for Ron. As a young boy, he had his own newspaper route and knew exactly how much money he had at any given moment.

"It is really about what you can do with this commodity called money—how money can be used as a tool to fulfill the dreams of families, businesses, and the community," said Ron.

Through his work as market president for U.S. Bank, Ron visits many corporations in the Dayton region. "Twenty, 30 years ago, Wright State graduates were lower to middle management," he recalled. "Fast forward to the 1990s, the 2000s, and today—it's the Wright State graduates who are running these companies."

Ron returned to Wright State in the early 1980s to begin working





on his master's degree. In many ways, it was a similar experience to his days as an undergraduate as he once again juggled the responsibilities of school and work. Ron has earned his M.B.A. in 1984.

He would come back to his alma mater years later to serve on the board of the Wright State Alumni Association, including a term as president. During his tenure as Alumni Association president, Ron also joined the board of trustees for the Wright State University Foundation. He has served on the Foundation board since 2002, including two years as chair.

Ron also chaired the alumni phase for the university's first campaign, *Tomorrow Takes Flight*. He and Joan both currently serve on the campaign cabinet for *Rise. Shine. The Campaign for Wright State University*.

"It's been like a family," said Joan of her experience on the campaign cabinet. "They're so embracing and they want to know how you feel. They want your input. It just feels like a second family."

"Joan's been able to see what I've seen for decades—to see what this university does for people's lives," said Ron.

Along with donating their time to the *Rise. Shine.* campaign, Ron and Joan have established their own scholarship fund. The Ron and Joan Amos Family Scholarship was created to help students in similar circumstances to those Ron experienced as a Wright State student.

The scholarship is geared toward the Wright State student who doesn't have a 4.0 GPA and is working their way through school. "Between school and work, they're probably putting in an 80-hour week," said Ron. "They're working a lot harder and with much more effort than the typical student."

Ron and Joan hope their scholarship will help students stay in school who might otherwise have to drop out because of financial challenges. The scholarship also fulfills the couple's passion for education and giving back to the community.

Before her recent retirement, Joan worked in early childhood education at a Dayton-area preschool for almost 15 years. She still returns to the school once a month to volunteer. She believes that a child's life will be forever changed if a love for learning can be instilled at an early age.

"It's just amazing how four- and five-year-olds are like little sponges," said Joan. "They just absorb so much."

Over the years, Ron and Joan have volunteered for and supported many organizations in the community, including Dayton Children's, United Way, and the American Heart Association.

"There are many organizations that we feel close to in the Dayton area," said Ron. "We believe in their missions and the impact they have on people's lives."

Ron tells his younger colleagues that the great surprise in his life has been the joy he's received from becoming engaged in the community and making lifelong friendships with the staff and other board members of organizations like Wright State.

"Our lives have been greatly enriched by our involvement," said Ron. "We have received far more than we've given."

Much of that gratitude and appreciation is directed at Wright State.

"Wright State is part of our family," said Joan. "We feel so connected with them and just feel so much at home."

"To hear the students speak and talk about what drove them to Wright State and how it's impacting their lives makes you want to do more," she added. "If you can help one student, Wright State would be the place to do it."

Thanks to Ron and Joan Amos, future generations of Wright State students will have the opportunity to create their own wonderful lives. **W**

# STUDENT SUCCESS



# helping students succeed

## john and shirley ('77) berry make \$1.5 million gift to support student success initiatives

BY KIM PATTON

SHIRLEY BERRY CREDITS her alma mater, Wright State University, with giving her the best start in life and setting her on the path to future success.

"I am who I am today as a result of all of the experiences I had in college and the opportunities Wright State afforded me," she explained.

Now future generations of Wright State students will be able to achieve their fullest potential thanks to the generosity of Shirley and her husband, John.

The Berrys have donated \$1.5 million to support student success programming and operations in the university's Student Success Center, which first opened in June 2015.

The Student Success Center features high-tech, active-learning classrooms, along with writing and math support labs. Prior to the opening of the Student Success Center, academic support such as advising, writing, and math services were scattered all over campus, making it inconvenient for students and less likely that the services would be used.

The Berrys liked Wright State's innovative concept of taking a building and completely dedicating it to helping students excel in their classes.

"Wright State's really unique with their programs to help students graduate," said John Berry, retired president of The Berry Company in Dayton. "Some of the kids who attend Wright State come from high schools where support services were unavailable to them. Having a Student Success Center on campus is a valuable and critical resource to students who need continuing assistance or help with a particular course."

The Berrys hope their gift will improve the odds that more students will overcome frustrations and complete their degrees. "The Student Success Center just might provide the assistance needed to persevere," said Shirley.

Shirley first enrolled at Wright State in 1967, then left to attend Miami University for a year. She married and later returned to Wright State as a single mother to finish her degree. She graduated from Wright State in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Business Education.

Following graduation, Shirley was hired through the university's Office of Career Services as an international sales specialist for Koehring Construction Equipment. That job expanded her knowledge previously gained in working with her family's local construction business.

"I really wanted to be a teacher, but that position came up first," she explained.

Shirley would go on to teach part time at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and later at Carroll High School, teaching a variety of business subjects from bookkeeping and accounting to semester courses in consumer economics, business law, and marketing. She later returned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to teach software applications and develop course materials for use in the classroom.

"Wright State prepared me better than anything for those positions," she said.

For the Berrys, their gift is not only an opportunity to give back to the university that helped make Shirley the person she is today; it's also a way to support a school that means so much to the community.

"I can't tell you how many people that

worked for me who graduated from Wright State," said John. "It certainly meant a lot to have Wright State as a resource. Many of our employees either graduated from or furthered their education at Wright State."

John and Shirley continue a long legacy of family philanthropy started by John's grandfather, Loren Berry.

"We're very fortunate to be able to help out and to make our community better," said John.

The Berrys focus their philanthropic support on causes that help the broadest range of people, such as health care, education, community, youth, and the arts.

"There is no greater gift that you can give to the next generation than education," said Shirley. "At Wright State, you get a great education and the dollar value is there."

In appreciation of their gift, Wright State University has named the 220-seat auditorium in the Student Success Center the John and Shirley ('77) Berry Auditorium.

With her gift, Shirley Berry joins 14 other Wright State alumni who have each contributed \$1 million or more to *Rise. Shine. The Campaign for Wright State University*.

Led by Academy Award-winning actor Tom Hanks and Amanda Wright Lane, great grandniece of university namesakes Wilbur and Orville Wright, *Rise. Shine.* promises to further elevate the school's prominence by expanding scholarships, attracting more top-flight faculty, and supporting construction of state-of-the-art facilities.

"I'm so proud that we can do this for Wright State," Shirley said. "It makes a big difference in people's lives whether they have a degree or not." **W**



Ohio National Guard Scholarship

## Wright State unveils new Ohio National Guard scholarship, receives more accolades from veteran and military publications

A special \$100,000 scholarship fund designed to help members of the Ohio National Guard attend graduate school was established by Wright State University in what is believed to be the first program of its kind in the state. The Wright State Ohio National Guard Graduate Scholarship fund was unveiled during a news conference at Wright State on October 31. *Military Times* named Wright State to its Best for Vets: Colleges 2017 list in November. Later that month, Victory Media, the parent company of *G.I. Jobs Magazine*, designated Wright State “military friendly” again. It is the eighth consecutive year that Wright State has received the designation.

## Wright State campuses going tobacco free

Wright State University President David R. Hopkins announced November 17 that Wright State’s Dayton and Lake Campuses will become tobacco free on July 1, 2017. “Going tobacco free promotes a healthy environment in which to learn, work, and live, for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors, and also better prepares our students for the workplace of today,” Hopkins said. Wright State began investigating the initiative in 2012 with a task force composed of faculty, staff, and students, as well as Public Health–Dayton and Montgomery County. All smoking and smokeless tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, will be prohibited from use anywhere on campus. Wright State will join more than 1,400 tobacco-free campuses across the country and is the ninth four-year public university in Ohio to commit to being tobacco free.



Tobacco-Free Campus

## Wright State names director of compliance

Kelli Tittle was named director of compliance at Wright State University. Among her duties, Tittle coordinates compliance activities and compliance training across campus, conducts yearly compliance audits, and oversees the university’s anonymous reporting line. The university-wide Compliance Program was created to help the university reach and sustain a mature infrastructure to support all the elements necessary for a strong compliance program and to foster a university-wide culture of compliance. Tittle previously was Wright State’s HIPAA and privacy compliance officer in the Office of the Vice President for Research. Prior to coming to Wright State, she was the director of health plan compliance for Premier Health.



Kelli Tittle

## Wright State presidential search receives community support

The Wright State Presidential Search and Screening Advisory Committee began accepting nominations and applications for the next president, who will succeed David R. Hopkins when he retires June 30, 2017. University stakeholders have played a major role in the search process. An online survey received 2,500 responses, while several hundred faculty, staff, students, and alumni attended three campus forums and a symposium with sitting university presidents and lawmakers on the future of higher education. Committee members also interviewed Wright State stakeholders and community leaders. The committee includes more than 20 representatives of the Board of Trustees, students, faculty, staff, deans, retirees, alumni, and local community members.

## Douglas W. Leaman named dean of the College of Science and Mathematics

Dean Douglas W. Leaman joined the College of Science and Mathematics October 1. Formerly the chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Toledo, Leaman is experienced in scholarship, pedagogical and curricular innovation, strategic planning, team-building, and administrative leadership. "Leaman's department (at University of Toledo) offered programs that prepared students for high-demand fields, featured strong undergraduate research, and trained students for postgraduate programs in basic science and other health care professions," said Wright State Provost Thomas Sudkamp. "He has demonstrated a strong commitment to student recruitment, increasing retention, and student success."

## Wright State honored for its work on disability access and inclusion

Wright State University was honored by a national equal opportunity organization for its efforts to make campus accessible and inclusive to all. The American Association for Access, Equity, and Diversity recognized Wright State with its Edward M. Kennedy Community Service Award. Matt Boaz, director of equity and inclusion, and Tom Webb, director of disability services, accepted the award during the association's annual conference in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill. "To be among the ranks of such advocates of change, diversity, and inclusion as Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee and Rep. James Clyburn is truly an honor. It's a privilege to have our hard work noticed and validated through such a progressive organization that is steeped in social justice and civil rights," Webb said.

## Wright State students behind Dayton Mobile Market

Without help from staff or faculty and without the effort being tied to an academic project or class, a group of Wright State students helped create a mobile nonprofit social enterprise, the Dayton Mobile Market, to provide fresh produce to residents of Dayton. The market's creators are working to improve choices in Dayton's food deserts, communities, and neighborhoods that have limited access to stores that sell healthy and fresh produce such as lean meats, dairy, and nonperishable products. The mobile market is serving as a mobile grocery store, and is increasing the amount of quality produce available to residents, in addition to providing healthier recipes and nutritional education.

## Wright State offers rebate on summer classes

Many Wright State undergraduate students from Ohio will soon save up to 20 percent on tuition by taking summer classes through the university's Summer Tuition Rebate plan. Introduced last spring, the plan involves a 20 percent rebate that can be applied for up to three credit hours during the summer semester. The rebate is available to undergraduate, degree-seeking students who are residents of Ohio and who have successfully completed at least 24 total credit hours during the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters. The rebate also applies to high school students who completed 24 credit hours at Wright State through Ohio's College Credit Plus program and become degree-seeking university students this summer. Last summer, awards were made to more than 2,000 eligible students, who saved more than \$460,000 in summer tuition.



Douglas Leaman



Dayton Mobile Market



Summer Rebate

## 2016 Alumni Achievement Awards

Each fall during Homecoming weekend, the Wright State University Alumni Association recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of Wright State alumni.

The outstanding individuals who are selected from a pool of more than 100,000 Wright State alumni are recognized for achieving numerous accomplishments in their fields and communities.

In addition to possessing high standards of integrity and character, they have also given their time and talent to benefit Wright State University and the Alumni Association.

On September 30, families and friends celebrated as seven distinguished alumni were honored by the Wright State Alumni Association, their colleagues, and peers.



**Left to right:** LaToya Gregory, wife of Donnell Gregory '98, '02, Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, accepting the award on his behalf; Carolyn Wright '73, '78, Alumni Society Award of Excellence; Deanna Springer '04, '06, Alumni Network Award of Excellence; Provost Thomas Sudkamp '83; Trisha Baxter '01, Volunteer Service Award; Andrew Barlow '09, Graduate of the Last Decade Award; Ann Weisgarber '76, Alumna of the Year Award; and Deb Downing '81, Wright State Alumni Association President.

**Not pictured:** Tom Hanks, Honorary Alumnus Award.

## Alumna of the Year: Ann Weisgarber



Award-winning author Ann Weisgarber, '76, received the 2016 Alumna of the Year Award.

Weisgarber's first novel, *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree*, is set in the South Dakota Badlands. The book won the Langum Prize in American Historical Fiction and the Stephen Turner Prize for Best Work of First Fiction. Her second novel, *The Promise*, a story revolving around the deadly 1900 hurricane that devastated Galveston, Texas, has been nominated for national and international awards.

Weisgarber grew up in Kettering. Following her graduation from Wright State's College of Liberal Arts with a bachelor's degree in social work, she worked in a psychiatric hospital and a rehab facility. She earned her master's degree in sociology from the University of Houston and then taught sociology at a junior college.

Weisgarber credits her Wright State education with helping her excel as a novelist. "That liberal arts background taught me very early on that there are many different points of view," she said.

In 2012, Weisgarber joined Wright State President David R. Hopkins and his wife Angelia's campaign cabinet to help raise funds for *Rise. Shine.*, which has raised more than \$160 million to expand scholarships, attract more top-flight faculty, and support construction of state-of-the-art facilities.

A short video about Weisgarber can be viewed at [wrightstatealumni.com/weisgarber](http://wrightstatealumni.com/weisgarber).

# ROWDY GRAS!



**Saturday, February 25, 7–11 p.m.**  
**Wright State Nutter Center**  
**McLin Gym**

Rowdy Gras is back! This event is a favorite of all of our local alumni. Don't miss out on the opportunity to win BIG prizes while having a New Orleans–style Monte Carlo evening at your own alma mater. Your ticket to Rowdy Gras gets you \$3,000 in playing chips, plenty of great New Orleans–style food to enjoy throughout the evening, and two drink tickets.

For tickets and event information, visit  
[wrightstatealumni.com/rowdygras](http://wrightstatealumni.com/rowdygras)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                          |              |  |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>February</b>          | <b>3</b>     | <b>College Outstanding Alumni Awards</b>   |
|                          | <b>24</b>    | <b>CEHS Night at the Raider Men's Basketball Game</b>                            |
|                          | <b>24</b>    | <b>Alumni Day at the Game: Wright State vs. Valparaiso</b>                       |
|                          | <b>25</b>    | <b>Rowdy Gras</b>  |
| <b>March</b>             | <b>3–7</b>   | <b>Horizon League Motor City Madness Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament</b> |
| <b>June</b>              | <b>10–11</b> | <b>Wine Trail Tour 2017</b>  |
| <b>July</b>              | <b>23</b>    | <b>Wright State Kings Island Day</b>   |
| <b>August</b>            | <b>14</b>    | <b>41st Annual Alumni Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing</b>                         |
| <b>September–October</b> | <b>29</b>    | <b>Homecoming 2017 and Wright State University 50th Anniversary Celebration</b>  |

**wrightstatealumni.com**  
for the latest event information and to purchase tickets.

## Alumni Association Hosts Indiana Wine Trail Tour June 10–11

The Wright State University Alumni Association invites all alumni to participate in the First Annual Wine Trail Tour! This is a highly anticipated and requested event. We do expect it to sell out—so buy your tickets early!

This weekend trip gives alumni and friends the opportunity to tour and taste some of the finest wines Indiana has to offer!

For rate information and to book your spot, go to  
[wrightstatealumni.com/winertour](http://wrightstatealumni.com/winertour)

Please register by May 9, 2017, to guarantee your spot!

The wineries for the tour include:

**Ertel Cellars**  
**Madison Vineyards**  
**Lanthier Winery**  
**The Ridge Winery**



## 2016

**Jasmine Easler (B.F.A.)** was cast in the 20th anniversary national tour of the musical *RENT*.

## 2015

**Susan Dankworth (M.Ed.)**, a fifth-grade math teacher at Hook Elementary School in Troy, OH, received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

## 2014

**Kirk Koennecke (Ed.S.)** was appointed superintendent of Graham Local Schools in St. Paris, OH.

## 2012

**Christopher Flanery (B.F.A.)** works as a videographer and editor for PBS in Lincoln, NE.

**Lauren Little (M.Ed.)** is president-elect of Career Development Professionals of Indiana.

**Chad McKinney (B.A.)** is the digital media specialist at the YMCA of Greater Dayton and broadcasts Wright State sporting events on ESPN3.

## 2011

**Jake Deister (M.D.)**, an orthopedic surgeon, joined the staff at Cotton O'Neil Orthopedic & Sports Medicine in Topeka, KS.

**Nicole Y. Turkson (M.D.)**, an assistant professor of family medicine at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, began accepting patients at the Wright State Physicians Health Center on campus.

## 2010

**Lydia Smith-Lockwood (M.M.)**, director of choral and orchestral music for Shawnee High School in Clark County, OH, received the Springfield (OH) Symphony Orchestra's sixth annual Music Educator of the Year award.

## 2009

**Antoinette Byrd-Carr (M.S.)** was named chief medical officer of the Inkster, MI-based Western Wayne Family Health Centers.

**Jeff Mercer (B.S.)** was named head baseball coach at Wright State.

**Nicole Riegel (B.A.)** co-produced and wrote the adaptation for *Soldier Girls*, an HBO miniseries that was executive-produced by actress/producer Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

## 2008

**Todd A. Bialowas (M.D.)**, a major in the U.S. Army, completed an operational medicine assignment as battalion surgeon and flight surgeon with Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC, and was assigned to be

chief of emergency medicine at Ft. Campbell, KY.

**Brian Lautzenheiser (M.S.)** won the 2015 Air Force Association Logistics Achievement of the Year award at Robins Air Force Base, GA.

## 2006

**Christopher Jefferson (M.B.A.)**, an Air Force major who works at the Office of Space Launch, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, received a 2016 Arthur S. Flemming Award for leading satellite vehicle operations for the National Reconnaissance Office. The awards are presented by the Arthur S. Flemming Commission and the George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration in cooperation with the National Academy of Public Administration.

## 2005

**Hannah Beachler (B.F.A.)** is production designer for *Miles Ahead*, a biographical film about jazz great Miles Davis, directed by and starring Don Cheadle.

**Tracie Bolden (M.D.)** joined Kettering Physician Network Primary Care in Beavercreek, OH.

**Jennifer Hillard (B.A.)**, recruitment and employment manager for St. Joseph of the Pines, an aging-services network in North Carolina, earned the Certified Professional designation from the Society of Human Resource Management.

**Brandon Kern (B.A.)** was named senior director of policy outreach for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

**Rupa Narra (M.D.)** joined the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an epidemic intelligence officer.

**Joe Parlette (B.A.)** was named deputy city manager of Dayton, OH.

## 2004

**Adam Bauer (B.S.)(M.B.A.)**, regional laboratory manager of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, IL, was named a Top 40 Under 40 honoree by the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

**Allen P. Chudzinski (M.D.)** was named medical director for the Advanced Center for Colorectal Surgery, which is part of the Digestive Health Institute at Florida Hospital Tampa.

**Jesse Hutchins (B.S.)** tied for medalist honors in qualifying for the Wyndham Championship, a Professional Golfers' Association of America TOUR event at Bermuda Run Country Club in Clemmons, NC.

**Matt McDowell (B.A.)** was named chief executive officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Warren & Clinton Counties (OH).

**Quincy E. Pope, Sr. (M.P.A.)**, was named city manager of Trotwood, OH.

**Deanna Springer (A.A.)(B.A.)** works in the Wright State University Office of Disability Services at Lake Campus and is vice president of the Lake Campus Alumni Network.

## 2003

**Courtney Holland (M.D.)**, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, joined the Community Howard Orthopedic Center in Kokomo, IN.

## 2002

**Michael Goodson (B.F.A.)** was named senior curator of exhibitions at The Ohio State University's Wexner Center for the Arts, effective July 1.

**Kevin Leary (B.F.A.)** was appointed managing director of the Buffalo, NY-based Theatre of Youth, western New York's only professional theater company dedicated to child audiences.

**Erin Lindsay Mathews (M.D.)** joined Kettering Physician Network Primary Care in Tipp City, OH.

**Josh Sweigart (B.A.)** earned second-place finishes in the categories of Best News Writer and Best Investigative Reporting in the Ohio Associated Press Media Editors' 2015 newspaper contest.

## 2000

**Michelle Greis (B.S.B.)** was named finance director for Liberty Township, OH.

**Jeremy Long (B.S.)**, associate professor of art and art history at Wright State University, had his paintings exhibited at Rosewood Gallery in Kettering, OH.

**Jason Taylor (B.S.B.)**, who played tackle for the Northmont (OH) High School football team from 1990 to 1992, was inducted into the Northmont Hall of Fame.

## 1999

**Atul Gupta (M.D.)** was selected to chair the American Heart Association's 20th annual fundraising Heart Ball of the Southern Coast at Hilton Head Island, SC.

**Michelle Riley (B.S.Ed.)(M.S.T.)** is chief executive officer of The Foodbank in Dayton, OH, which in 2015 distributed more than 9 million pounds of food to 106 other nonprofits that feed the hungry.

## 1998

**Jeff Blake (B.S.B.)** was promoted to vice president of human resources

at United Federal Credit Union in St. Joseph, MI.

**Shanda McKinney (B.A.)** was named human-resources director at Woolpert, a Dayton, OH-based architecture, engineering, and geospatial firm.

## 1997

**Jennifer Byrd (M.D.)**, a geriatrician, was appointed medical director of the Will County (IL) Community Health Center.

**Parris Carter (B.A.)(M.Ed.)** was named vice president of student affairs at Howard University in Washington, DC

**Stephanie Hinds (M.Ed.)** is principal of Brookville (OH) Elementary School.

**Beth Justice (M.A.)** was hired as superintendent of the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center in Wilmington, OH.

**Kristina McBride (M.Ed.)** released *A Million Times Goodnight*, her third young-adult novel.

**Gary Christopher Norman (B.A.)** was elected vice chair of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

**Candice Sieben (M.D.)** joined Novant Health Family & Internal Medicine South Brunswick in South Brunswick, NC.

**Bitu Tabesh (M.D.)** was named chief of hematology and oncology at Atrius Health, a nonprofit health care organization in Massachusetts that offers cancer treatment

**Dwayne Thompson (M.Ed.)** was hired as the new superintendent of the Piqua (OH) City Schools.

## 1996

**Brady Kress (B.A.)** was honored with an Alumni Achievement Award from Wright State University and an Outstanding Alumni Award from the Centerville (OH) Education Foundation.

## 1995

**Lois J. Rapp (M.Ed.)(Ed.S.)** was named director of Student Excellence for Department of Defense Education Activity, school systems that serve more than 74,000 children of active-duty military and DoD civilian families.

**John Rogers III (B.S.)(M.Ed.)** was named coordinator of the Office for Males of Color for Dayton (OH) Public Schools.

## 1994

**Katherine L. Myers (M.R.C.)**, assistive technology specialist for the Office of Disability Services at Wright State University, was recognized by *Continental Who's Who among Pinnacle Professionals* in the field of higher education.

**David Miller (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.)** was hired as head football coach at Kettering Fairmont (OH) High School.

**Darren Taulbee (B.S.B.)** was hired as chief financial officer of Shumsky, Dayton, OH, which makes made-to-order promotional products.

### 1993

**Wajeeha Aziz (M.B.A.)** was named Time Warner Cable's area vice president for Technical Operations for Brooklyn and Queens (NY).

**Laurie Bankston (M.S.)(M.D.)** joined Kettering Physician Network Primary Care at Xenia (OH) Health Park.

### 1991

**Terri Wilkerson Riddiford (M.D.)** joined Kettering Physician Network Primary Care at the Huber Health Center in Huber Heights, OH.

**Robert Villamagna (M.A.T.)**, an assistant professor of art at West Liberty University in West Liberty, WV, was named 2016 Artist of the Year by West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.

**Vivian von Gruenigen (M.D.)** was named chief medical officer at Summa Health, an Akron, OH-based hospital system.

### 1990

**Fred Boehler (B.S.B.)** was appointed president and chief executive officer of Americold, an Atlanta-based company that offers temperature-controlled warehousing and logistics to the food industry.

**Paul Newman, Jr. (B.F.A.)**, executive director of the Fairborn (OH) Area Chamber of Commerce, was appointed Greene County development director.

**Rick Silvers (B.A.)** was named president and CEO of the Columbus, IN-based Centra Credit Union.

### 1989

**Kim Henderson (B.S.B.)** was named director of development at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center in Niceville, FL.

**Mary Beth Tung (Ph.D.)** was appointed director of the Maryland Energy Administration.

### 1988

**Pam Fontaine (B.S.Ed.)**, a Texas Wesleyan adjunct faculty member who has won three gold medals in Paralympic competitions, competed in the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in table tennis.

**Cindy Martin (B.S.Egr.)** was promoted to vice president for the System Development Operations Division of MacAulay-Brown, Inc. in Dayton, OH.

**Lisa B. Rhine (B.S.)**, provost of Tidewater Community College's Chesapeake (VA) Campus was awarded the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence.

### 1987

**Sherri Petrovich (B.A.)** is a regional manager for Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse Canada, a relief and development organization.

**Cheryl Reinke (B.S.Egr.)** became the fifth person to complete the 120.3-mile 8 Bridges Hudson River Swim.

### 1986

**Stuart Donovan (M.D.)** was named chairman of the surgery department at Bethesda North Hospital in Montgomery (OH).

**Teresa Muterspaw (B.S.N.)(M.S.)** was named the 2016 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

### 1984

**Gregory Archer (Psy.D.)** released a nonfiction narrative, *Private Heller and the Bantam Boys: An American Medic in World War I*, about his late grandfather, Ralph Heller, a World War I Army medic.

**J. Todd Anderson (B.A.)(B.F.A.)** is the storyboard artist for filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen and most recently worked on the movie *Hail, Caesar!*

**Norma Nikkola (M.R.C.)**, who served as health coordinator for Fairborn (OH) City Schools before retiring, was inducted into the school district's Hall of Honor.

**Robert S. Schaefer (M.D.)**, of Orthopaedic Associates of Kalamazoo, returned to orthopedic work at Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall, MI.

### 1983

**John A. Dietrick, (M.D.)** joined the Florida Hospital Physician Group as part of the Florida Hospital Tampa Surgical Weight Loss Institute in Tampa, FL.

### 1982

**Bruce Cromer (B.F.A.)**, a professor of acting in the BFA Professional Actor Training Program, had a lead role in the regional premiere of *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at the Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati. Cromer performs regularly at the Ensemble Theatre, the Cincinnati Playhouse, the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, and the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.

**Randy Phillips (B.S.)**, a senior executive in the defense and aerospace sector who also serves as a trustee for the Wright State University Foundation, was inducted into the Fairborn (OH) City Schools Hall of Honor.

**Sharon Short (B.A.)**, author and *Dayton Daily News* columnist, received an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council.

### 1981

**Jon Luttrell (B.S.E.)** was promoted to senior vice president of utility operations and president of Evansville, IN-based Vectren Utility Holdings, Inc.

**Kathy L. Watern (B.S.B.)** was named executive director of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH.

**Patricia M. Young (B.A.)(M.S.)** was named executive director of the Air Force Materiel Command, becoming the top civilian at the largest command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

### 1980

**William Boshinski (B.S.)** was named 2016 Optometrist of the Year by the Pennsylvania Optometric Association.

**William Elder (M.D.)**, who practices family medicine at American Health Network in Fredericktown, OH, and serves as medical director of Country Court Nursing Center in Mount Vernon, was named medical director of Hospice of North Central Ohio.

### 1979

**David Burns (B.S.)** was named chair of the Department of Marketing and Professional Sales at Kennesaw State University near Atlanta.

**Connie Hanselman (B.F.A.)** was featured in an art exhibition at the Dayton (OH) Visual Arts Center to celebrate the center's 25 years of programming.

### 1978

**Twyla Cummings (B.S.)(M.S.)** was named dean of graduate education at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY.

**Susan Skowronski (A.A.B.)** is an assistant professor of IT/business technology at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland.

### 1977

**Sarah Thomas (M.Ed.)** published the novel *Hamburg's Hybrids* under the name of S. "Flit" Thomas.

### 1976

**James Dotts (M.S.)** is a retired safety engineer working part time at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, CA.

**Doug Taylor (B.S.B.)** was featured in an art exhibition at the Dayton (OH) Visual Arts Center to celebrate the center's 25 years of programming.

### 1975

**Sandra Vogel (B.S.Ed.)**, a coaching faculty member for The Xavier University Leadership Center in Cincinnati, OH, served as a lead facilitator for 24 high-potential Chinese leaders in a program at Duke University.

### 1974

**Charles Painter (M.Ed.)** is coaching girls tennis at Kettering (OH) Archbishop Alter High School and posted his 670th career win in the sport.

### 1972

**Michael Bashaw (B.A.)** was featured in an art exhibition at the Dayton (OH) Visual Arts Center to celebrate the center's 25 years of programming.

**Thomas Crowl (B.A.)**, a retired attorney and judge, volunteers as a naturalist at a Florida state park and writes daily Christian devotionals for a newspaper and blog. He resides in Englewood, FL.

**Stevie Kremer (B.A.)** worked as a senior technical writer for the University of Dayton Research Institute and several Air Force contractors.

### 1971

**William Naughton (M.Ed.)**, a retired work-study coordinator and driver education teacher for Fairborn (OH) City Schools, was inducted into the school district's Hall of Honor.

**Ruthann Peck (B.A.)(M.Ed.)** released *Poverty, Puberty & Patriotism: A Dayton Girl Grows Up During WWII*, a true story of the author's life as a young teenager.

**Michael Seewer (M.A.)**, retired literature and history teacher for Fairborn (OH) City Schools, was inducted into the school district's Hall of Honor.

### 1970

**John F. Mayer (B.S.)**, an associate professor of Samoan language and literature and chair of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is the principal investigator of a grant to establish a community-based learning center in Honolulu for the maintenance and teaching of the Samoan language and culture to Samoan youth.

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ONLINE!  
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# game changers



**“It was really an easy decision for me after I came to Wright State and saw its potential—both for the university and for the basketball program.”**

CONSIDER HOW MUCH a college basketball coach must love a university to stay there 21 years.

Then consider how compelling the reasons would need to be for him to leave that university behind.

“I can’t imagine what it was like for him; it had to be really hard,” assistant coach Brian Cooley said of Scott Nagy’s decision come to Wright State after 21 seasons at South Dakota State.

Only eight coaches in NCAA Division I had been at their institutions longer than Nagy before he was named Wright State’s head coach this spring.

“It’s crazy to think that, in coaching, you’re going to be anywhere for 21 years,” Nagy said.

Nagy detailed some of the reasons for the change during various media interviews after he was hired.

- Wright State offers an opportunity for Nagy and wife Jamie to be closer to their families. Nagy’s father lives in Chicago, his mother and Jamie’s parents in Tennessee.
- Wright State has outstanding facilities and is hungry to become a perennial NCAA tournament team.
- Wright State pursued Nagy, not the other way around. He had considered Northern Illinois and Ball State in 2011 and 2013, but stayed put.
- Wright State offered security in the form of a five-year contract. Nagy was under a one-year contract every year at South Dakota State (a policy recently changed by the state’s Board of Regents).

“It was really an easy decision for me after I came to Wright State and saw its potential—both for the university and for the basketball program,” Nagy said.

The 50-year-old Nagy helped steer South Dakota State’s upgrade from Division II to Division I in 2004 and compiled a 410-240 (.631) overall record. The Jackrabbits qualified for the NCAA tournament in 2012, 2013, and 2016. South Dakota State was 26-8 last season, winning the Summit League regular-season and conference titles before falling to Maryland in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

His influence, however, went well beyond the basketball court.

The Nagys already had four children—Nick, Tyler, AJ, and Natalie—when family friends showed them a photo of a 2½-year-old girl at an orphanage in Haiti. After a 10-month process, the Nagys were able to adopt Naika, now 13. Nagy later took players and coaches to Haiti to aid in humanitarian efforts there.

“It was a great experience, probably the coolest thing we ever did—and it had nothing to do with basketball,” Cooley said.

Nagy also has a long association with Samaritan’s Feet, a charity that helps collect shoes for children in places like Haiti.

People at South Dakota State tipped their hats to Nagy for what he accomplished there, on and off the court. Now he has found a place in Dayton that holds the promise of becoming special to him in its own right.

“When you have been at a place 21 years, there’s no easy way to leave it,” Nagy said. “But the culture of this university, the facilities, and the priority given to men’s basketball helped me believe Wright State was the right place, and this was the right time, to make this move.” **W**



## new basketball coaches add to raiders' winning tradition

BY ANDREW CALL

EVERY DAY, AROUND 9:30 A.M., a cardinal comes to rest on the branch of a tree behind the Setzer Pavilion/Mills Morgan Center and peers into the window of the women's basketball office. When Katrina Merriweather looks out and sees the bright red bird, she thinks of her great-grandmother, Pearl Posley, with whom she spent many childhood afternoons.

"I told my mom, 'That's my Nana, flying around here and looking after me and trying to protect me,'" Merriweather said. "(The cardinal) was her favorite bird. It's just me holding on to her, I guess."

Merriweather's achievements help demonstrate the vital influence Posley and others have played in her life—and how Wright State's new women's basketball coach hopes to follow their example by becoming a significant positive influence in the lives of her players.

"That day I got the job, I literally felt like I was standing on the shoulders of hundreds of people," Merriweather said.

Her first influencers were family. Merriweather comes from a family recognized throughout Indiana for its contributions to both education and basketball.

Her grandfather, Willie, was an All-American at Purdue and is a member of both the Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame and the Indiana Hall of Fame. He was a long-time teacher and currently headmaster at schools in Detroit. "My grandfather really instilled in me how important it was to value people," Merriweather said.

Her father, Kevin, played at Purdue and the University of Indianapolis before establishing The Family, a community and mentoring project of which one component is a powerhouse AAU basketball program. "His training sessions were unorthodox, but they worked out pretty well," Merriweather said. "And my mom made sure I didn't quit."

Merriweather was a two-year starter for the University of Cincinnati, becoming the first player in school history to play in four consecutive postseason tournaments. The basketball staff there included Mike Bradbury, who would later hire Merriweather as an assistant when he became head coach at Wright State.

"She could do anything we asked her to do," Bradbury said. "She's got 'it,' whatever 'it' is. I think she's going to be a star."

Merriweather, 36, is a product of her experiences as well as her influences. She admits to having learned some difficult, but valuable, lessons through mistakes she made as a young assistant.

"I made decisions that, now, I wish I could have done differently," Merriweather said. "But, over time, you transition. First you are like (the player's) friend. Then you are like their older sister. Then you are like their auntie. Now I am the same age as some of their moms. So now my conversations during recruiting are not about their favorite shoes or their favorite movie. My conversations pertain more to their parents."

Those conversations, with both parents and players, include a persuasive message.

"They are going to be challenged," Merriweather said. "They are going to be pushed. There are going to be days they're not going to like me. But I will be waiting for the phone to ring when they are 25 or 26, calling to thank me for what we did in their lives." **W**



**"My grandfather really instilled in me how important it was to value people."**

# CAMPUS





*A 1998 digital photo taken from atop an uncompleted University Hall shows ground preparation just prior to the installation of Turning Points, or "BART," as the sculpture is affectionately known.*

**30,381** total  
donors

**RISE.SHINE.**

The Campaign for Wright State University

**30,381 alumni and friends** have supported Wright State students during the *Rise. Shine.* campaign. We are counting on you to join the thousands of alumni who are making a difference for the future of Wright State students.

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