New program helps disabled students enter STEM fields

Wright State University, in partnership with Ohio State University, is leading a five-year program to recruit Ohio students with disabilities to enter the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Wright State leads the nation in helping individuals with disabilities overcome barriers to finish college degrees.

The program, Ohio’s STEM Ability Alliance (OSAA), was awarded a $3 million National Science Foundation grant, with the goals of recruiting, retaining, and graduating students with disabilities in STEM degree programs. Participating institutions include Wright State, Sinclair Community College, Ohio State, and Columbus State Community College.

OSAA will target disabled high school students in Ohio and work with them and their families to improve motivation, dispel erroneous preconceptions, and clarify expectations about the STEM fields.

At least 9,000 students with disabilities in Ohio’s K-12 classrooms have the potential to attend two- and four-year colleges. About one-third of these students have the interest and potential to earn degrees in STEM, according to OSAA’s estimates.

Americans with disabilities are one-tenth as likely to be in STEM careers as their able-bodied peers and 50 percent less likely to pursue college.

"Students with disabilities, veterans who have been injured in recent conflicts, and individuals who have acquired a disability through aging will all benefit from training in STEM fields. Their success is important in boosting the state’s economic turnaround," said Michele Wheately, dean of Wright State’s College of Science and Mathematics and director for Dayton’s alliance.

“This effort is about the education and future employment of a group of people who would otherwise live a life on the edge of poverty,” said Jeffrey Vernooy, disability services director at Wright State. “It means finding successful employment in Ohio’s future jobs for a group that presently is estimated to be eight times more unemployed than the national average of all persons.”

Cox Ohio Publishing, publisher of the Dayton Daily News, will donate its entire archive of historical newspapers and photographs to the Wright State University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives.

“We are thrilled to have Wright State University become the steward of our archive," said Dayton Daily News Editor Kevin Riley, “The Dayton Daily News and the Former Journal Herald have been the eyes and ears of the community documenting life in the Dayton region for more than a century.”

Currently, Wright State’s Special Collections and Archives preserves and provides access to nearly 9,000 cubic feet of manuscripts and records from the Miami Valley region. The Dayton Daily News and Journal Herald archives will add 3,500 cubic feet to Wright State’s collection.

“Special Collections and Archives in the Wright State University Libraries is poised and well equipped to undertake the preservation of this important local history resource,” said WSU President David R. Hopkins. “The combined acts of preservation and planned availability of this immense, incredibly detailed historical record further binds our university to this community by allowing us to care for and share this wealth of memory with greater Dayton.”

The Dayton Daily News archives hold more than 100 years’ worth of invaluable stories and photographs about individuals, companies, organizations, and groups who have shaped this region’s history. From innovative industrial development to political and social influencers, the archive tells stories that connect this region to the state, the nation, and the world.

Left to right: Dayton Daily News Editor Kevin Riley, WSU President David R. Hopkins, Stephen Foster, university librarian and associate vice president for international affairs; and Jan Hillman, assistant vice president for university initiatives.
As winter quarter comes to an end and we anxiously await the arrival of spring, I am reminded of new beginnings. After many cold, drizzly days, I think it’s time again to focus on something positive.

On March 2, Wright State University’s Faculty Senate voted to move from quarters to semesters in Fall 2012. This vote was the culmination of months of work by the Exploratory Committee on the Transition from Quarters to Semesters. My greatest appreciation goes to all of the faculty, staff, students, and administrators who served on the committee, along with co-chairs Tom Sudkamp and Lillie Howard.

Currently, there are only four members of the University System of Ohio still on the quarter system: Ohio University, University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University, and Wright State University. Furthermore, 90 percent of the universities in the United States are on semesters. Converting from quarters to semesters will allow Wright State to operate on a calendar that is in alignment with other universities and will help us to facilitate collaborative academic programs, student transfers, and articulation.

Semesters offer several other advantages for students, faculty, and staff, including: more time for learning course material; opportunities for faculty to be more innovative in their teaching and curriculum; and more time for summer internships and jobs. Semesters will also allow graduating seniors to enter the job market earlier.

In today’s economy we need to be as competitive as possible with other universities and give our students as many advantages as we can. We can convert to semesters one more step in this direction.

From Broadway revues to musical ensembles and solos, from live scripting and painting to the Student Film Festival, attendees marvel every year at the sheer talent and skill presented during this very special evening. The 10th Anniversary ARTSGALA will also feature:

• Live performances to accompany themed culinary delights in five dining halls
• A wine tasting featuring high-priced, top-quality wines
• A performance by Wright State’s Wind Symphony featuring “Stars and Stripes Forever”
• Drawing from Perception VI, a national juried arts exhibition
• Dancing on the Festival Playhouse stage
• NCAA basketball tournament coverage, shown on a home theatre system with HDTV satellite, provided by Morris Home Furnishings
• Live radio broadcasts from the Creative Arts Center by Classical Bill J. VDPDR

The silent auction will offer:

• Outstanding artwork by WSU faculty, students, and alumni
• A wide variety of exceptional bottles of wine
• Elegant designer jewelry
• Vacation getaways
• An assortment of luxury gift baskets, gift cards, and dining certificates
• WSU Arts Entertainment Package, including tickets to theater and music department performances

Wright State faculty and staff may purchase ARTSGALA tickets at a discounted rate of $125 per person. Tickets are available for sale by calling (937) 775-5952. When ordering online, use the code WSState to receive the discount.

CONVERTING FROM QUARTERS TO SEMESTERS WILL ALLOW WRIGHT STATE TO OPERATE ON A CALENDAR THAT IS IN ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND WILL HELP US TO FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE ACADMIC PROGRAMS, STUDENT TRANSFERS, AND ARTICULATION.

Please keep in mind that Wright State has created a website that will continually be updated to answer any questions you may have about the quarter-to-semesters conversion.

I welcome your input and appreciate your active participation as we make this important change and build for the future of our university.

www.wright.edu/semesters

The ninth annual Quest for Community: A Call to Action explores diversity issues in higher education. The theme of this year’s conference is “Art and Innovation: Diverse Visions of Community.” This theme encompasses such issues as:

• How is a sense of art and innovation relevant to the academic disciplines?
• How can art and innovation inspire new fields to benefit the community?
• How are art and the process of scientific discovery linked?
• How are art and/or innovation employed in the workshops to create community, and enhance the quality of community life?
• How can art and innovation be used to forge connections among disconnected individuals within a community?
• How can we broaden our notion of art and innovation in order to accurately reflect the great diversity of a community?
• How can art serve as a vehicle for difficult conversations about gender, race, class, and sexual identity in our community?

The Quest conference will kick off with a Presidential Lecture Series event on Wednesday, April 15, Reza Adaya, CBS News analyst and bestselling author and expert on Islam, will speak at 7:00 p.m. in the Apollo Room of the Student Union.

NEW QUEST FOR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

DIVERSE VISIONS OF COMMUNITY

QUEST SPEAKERS

Niki Giovanni is a world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, and educator. She published her first book of poetry, Black Feeling Black Talk, in 1971. Her autobiography, Gemini, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Blues: For All the Changes reached #4 on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list, a rare achievement for a book of poems. Most recently, her children’s picture book Rosa, about the civil rights legend Rosa Parks, became a Caldecott Honor Book and reached #3 on The New York Times bestseller list.

Reza Adaya, the first Muslim intellectual to come on the scene in years with a new, passionate, and much-needed perspective to the national discussion regarding Islam.

In his internationally acclaimed book No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam, as well as his lectures and writings, Adaya explores the intricate interplay between faith and politics in the Muslim world, presenting Islam as an ever-evolving faith and culture, currently in the midst of a cataclysmic internal battle for reform and modernization.

How will this conference address the power of art as a form of education about the prevalence of domestic violence in our culture and as a tool for healing?

How are art and/or innovation used to forge connections among disconnected individuals within a community?

How is our vision of community restricted by notions of what art is and who is an artist?

How is a sense of art and innovation relevant to the academic disciplines?

How can art and innovation inspire new fields to benefit the community?

How are art and the process of scientific discovery linked?

How are art and/or innovation employed in the workshops to create community, and enhance the quality of community life?

How can art and innovation be used to forge connections among disconnected individuals within a community?

How can we broaden our notion of art and innovation in order to accurately reflect the great diversity of a community?

How can art serve as a vehicle for difficult conversations about gender, race, class, and sexual identity in our community?

www.wright.edu/artsgala

QUEST FOR COMMUNITY® CONFERENCE SESSIONS

ARTS & INNOVATION

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., Apollo Room, Student Union

• How will you use art to bring women together, understand their professional work as artists, and learn creative ways to educate others using drama?

TITLES OF DISABILITY AND DISABILITY CULTURE INFORM ONE’S OPRING OR MEDICAL ADVANCEMENT?

Learn how disability models have influenced society’s attitudes toward disabilities, disability laws, policy, and medical procedures.

THE PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN FILM/LITERATURE AS A METHOD TO FACILITATE DIVERSITY TRAINING

Film, music, and art about and by women with disabilities will illustrate disability history, landmark legislation, and disability culture.

EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF ART AND ENGINEERING: WE R CONNECTED

Learn how art and/or innovation are used to forge connections among disconnected individuals within a community.

ACCESSING GESTURES TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND

Learn about the educational improvement of students who are blind when they are given access to teacher gestures.

WHEN SHE BEGAN TO SPEAK FREELY

This presentation will address the power of art as a form of education about the prevalence of domestic violence in our culture and as a tool for healing.

POEMS FROM GUANTÁNAMO

This presentation will examine poems by detainees at Guantánamo Bay, written in toothpaste or scratched into foam cups with pebbles.

ZEN AND THE ART OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

This presentation will create a sense of community.

THE EDUCATIONAL THEATER COMPANY (E.T.C.:) DRAMA FOR THE MIND

Watch a performance, acquire script-writing skills and acting techniques, and learn creative ways to educate others using drama.

ART AS METAPHOR: WOMEN’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

Join the ACE Ohio Women’s Network for an interactive workshop on how to use art to bring women together, understand their professional work as artists, and make connections.

ART ACROSS BORDERS: CONVEYING A MESSAGE THROUGH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

This presentation will illustrate art as a universal language and how it can convey messages that break cultural, ethnic, and religious barriers.

STEMAS: USING CO-CURRICULAR SCIENCE, ART, AND MUSIC TO REACH MORE STUDENTS

This panel presentation will focus on Wright State’s STEMAS course and how it teaches education majors to enhance the classroom learning experience by exciting students about multiple subjects.

THE UPRIGHTED & REPLACED: EXPLORING BROWN AND BLACK COLLECTIONS—IMPLICATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

This presentation will focus on the African American and Latina female experiences by using poetry and dramatic expression to bring diversity awareness to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

USING COMIC BOOKS TO ILLUSTRATE DISCUSSION ABOUT RACE AND GENDER

This workshop will showcase how comic books and graphic novels can be used to discuss issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation with college students.

HOW CAN ART AND INNOVATION BE USED TO FOSTER CONNECTIONS AMONG DISCONNECTED INDIVIDUALS WITHIN A COMMUNITY?

This panel discussion will explore how the local arts community can use and has used art to connect disconnected individuals in our society.

www.wright.edu/dialogue
Hiking through an Amazon Rainforest, journeying through Switzerland in a wheelchair, restoring an old church in Poland—these are just a few of the memorable life experiences Wright State’s faculty are offering to students through study abroad programs.

According to Michelle Streeter-Ferrari, director of the University Center for International Education, “The greatest potential benefit are short-term, affordable, and a great opportunity for the students traveling abroad for the first time.

“Our students are 40 percent first-generation students. Going abroad for them is a great challenge, especially for nontraditional students going to find cultural and natural habitats.

The experience also provided students with lifelong lessons on the importance of preserving the environment. "We get so much from the rainforest—medicine, food, fuel," said Sarah Sparks. "The take and take and give very little back. So we have to move to take. The rainforest is invaluable. We need to realize how quickly we are destroying it and do something about it before it is too late."

For senior Patrick McAfee, seeing the rainforest helped him to "get a real understanding of the natural treasures in the world that are being depleted and what we can do to protect them." McAfee was so moved by his experience that he and his band plan to perform a benefit concert at Gillies on April 24 to raise money to purchase digital cameras for the Tiputini Biodiversity Station.

Many trips, like the one to Ecuador, would be difficult for a disabled student. This summer, Wright State will offer the first study abroad program designed for both physically challenged and able-bodied students. Garrato Guzzi, sociology and anthropology, and Sarah Twall, social work, will lead students on a 14-day excursion through Switzerland.

“I am a traveler and have been for a long time, even before becoming incapacitated due to a tree-cutting accident in 1992. A major concern for me after being wheelchair-bound was my ability to continue my passion for travel and visiting friends and relatives overseas," Guzzi explained. "With some planning, flexibility, and given the market, travel could still be even in a ‘chair’. My idea for this trip was to open the world to people who might have thought it was out of bounds or simply too much hassle.”

The School of Professional Psychology’s (SOPP) Duke E. Ellis Human Development Institute has received a three-year accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Doctoral Education Programs (CAREP). CAREP is a national and international credentialing body that focuses on quality, care, advancement, accountability, outcomes, and continued performance improvement.

This accreditation was awarded for the following areas:
- Assessment and Referral: Mental Health (Adults, Children, and Adolescents)
- Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Adults, Children, and Adolescents)

In addition, the Ellis Institute received commendations from CAREP for excellence in four areas: diversity, quality, and record-keeping, and the availability of faculty, our body of students, the values of national and international behavioral health communities will be the foundation of our care.”

This accreditation is the result of a survey, completed last December, in which CAREP representatives evaluated operational procedures, documentation, and other quality items in addition to interviewing clients, people in the community, and the Ellis Institute’s Board of Directors. In the survey summary, the Ellis Institute was praised for being “highly regarded by community stakeholders as a provider of quality services and for being strategically positioned to serve a diverse community.”

While the CAREP accreditation is for a three-year period, the team at the Ellis Institute will submit annual reports of compliance to maintain this accreditation. This new accreditation will position the Ellis Institute to provide more services to more people, including Medicaid recipients.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 20 YEARS

Opened in 1989, the Ellis Institute is a state-of-the-art training, psychological treatment and assessment services, and research. Under the direct supervision of a faculty member who is also a practicing psychologist, clinicians in the doctoral program provide psychological assessment, therapy, and assessment services. The Ellis Institute provides reduced-fee services, which is based on the client’s ability to pay. Medicaid will also cover the services. Among the services offered are:
- Testing Services: Provides psychological and psycho-educational assessments for clients affected by problems in learning, mental health, and drug and alcohol abuse.
- The Career Counseling Center: Provides vocational assessment, and reduced availability of services.

Mental Health and Dependency Programs—Trains mental health professionals and interpreters in understanding the etiology, needs, and cultural context of disorders affecting their partners. Provides treatment to batterers in order to stop their abusive behavior.

PEACE-PACT Program—Parents Early Childhood Education—Positive Action Choices Training (PEACE-PACT) is designed to reduce existing conduct problems and to help prevent the development of conduct disorders among young high-risk children.

RESIDENT YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN PROGRAM (RYLG)—A program to educate, motivate, and direct young women and men through character development, family, schooling, and community participation. Students are paired with a faculty mentor, and each pair is assigned to a single resident director. Weekly dinner meetings are held with guest speakers from various fields.

Sarah Koerner, a doctoral student in SOPP, has worked with the PATH program for the past three years. PATH is responsible for conducting peer counseling projects and helping to prevent the development of conduct disorders among young high-risk children.

WSI professor receives Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Play Therapy

Diane Folk, a professor in the Department of Human Services, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Association for the Association for Play Therapy (APT). Folk was honored for her outstanding career contributions that have advanced and promoted the value of play therapy as a tool for working with children.

Since she was introduced to play therapy as a University of Illinois graduate student more than 30 years ago, Folk has trained thousands of students in the use of play therapy with children and adults. She is the author of five books.

Frey has contributed hundreds of hours to the APT by serving on their board, as well as the editorial board of the International Journal of Play Therapy. Folk received the APT’s highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award, in 2009.
Wright State to honor founding staff members

WSU Staff Council and the Retirees Association will honor the early staff members of Wright State at an event on April 21. The Staff Pioneers Project, which was born from last year’s Faculty Pioneers Project, will commemorate those staff members who worked at the Dayton Campus of Miami University and The Ohio State University from 1964 to 1967, prior to the university’s becoming Wright State.

According to Chris Wydman, chair of the Staff Pioneers Committee, more than 160 former staff members will be recognized and a plaque will be dedicated in their honor. “We tracked down as many honorees as possible to invite them to the event—quite a few are still in the area,” said Wydman. The committee used early staff directories, old campus catalogues, and other sources in the University Archives, as well as the retirees’ newsletter and word of mouth to compile the list of names.

“It’s been a neat, fun project to latch on to and a good way to celebrate our past and honor those who played such a key role in shaping our future,” said Wydman.

STAFF PIONEERS CELEBRATION
Tuesday, April 21
2:00 p.m.
Pathfinder Lounge
Student Union
All faculty and staff are invited to attend. Please RSVP by April 16 to 775-5512.

Drawing from Perception returns to Wright State

From March 31 through May 3, works by more than 60 artists from across the country will grace the walls of the Robert & Elaine Stein Galleries for Drawing from Perception VI. Begun in 1996, Drawing from Perception is a juried show focusing on the discipline of drawing from observation using traditional materials. Renowned New York Realist, Ruth Miller, served as this year’s juror.

Drawing from Perception VI captures the variety of subjects and techniques available to contemporary artists who continue to use traditional materials. Miller’s choices perfectly illustrate just how varied the discipline of drawing can be. Selected works range from small-scale watercolors to large charcoal drawings, encompassing subjects from the artist’s model to landscapes and cityscapes. While some artists work in a very controlled manner, observing minute details about their subject and surroundings, others work in a more gestural manner, creating an impression of their environment.

Showing concurrently in the Front Gallery, Ruth Miller: Paintings and Works on Paper, is an intimate look at her own observational drawings. Miller’s career spans more than 50 years, from her time as an Art Students League in New York to an illustrious international teaching career.

The works shown below are three of the more than 60 works accepted for Drawing from Perception VI. (From left to right) Dan Scott, Whisperted Tidle, black and white charcoal on grey paper, 25½” x 19½”, 2008; Celia Reisman, Distance, graphite and gouache, 11” x 22”, 2007; Brett Eisenthal, Decisions, graphite, 19” x 21¼”, 2008.