



**CONVOCATION 2010**  
President David R. Hopkins will present his State of the University Address and the Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence at the University Convocation on September 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union Apollo Room.

FALL 2010

# Dialogue

A NEWSLETTER FOR  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY AND STAFF

Q U A R T E R S T O S E M E S T E R S

## Tip of the Iceberg Semester Transition Planning



**ALTHOUGH THE TRANSITION** from quarters to semesters is still two years away, many faculty, staff, and students from all over campus have been working for months to ensure a smooth transition. “We’re moving from the planning stage to the implementation stage,” said Thomas Sudkamp, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate studies and the University College.

Sudkamp is leading the charge as chair of the Semesters Transition Team (STT). Lillie Howard, Ph.D., senior vice president for curriculum and instruction, was STT co-chair until her retirement in June. Sudkamp is pleased with the hard work and progress thus far, but acknowledges there is much to be done. “It’s going to be a busy fall,” he added. “If there is a ‘make or break’ time, this is it.”

- Milestones accomplished to date include:
- Transition plan developed and currently being implemented
  - Pledge to Students announced
  - Major and minor degree requirements adopted
  - Wright Core (the new name for General Education) approved
  - Writing Across the Curriculum approved
  - Workflow system created for semester course approval and program approval
  - Semester website created ([www.wright.edu/semesters](http://www.wright.edu/semesters))
  - College semester advising plans created
- The transition to semesters gives Wright State the opportunity to

reinvent the entire curriculum and incorporate innovation into new degree programs and courses. Thirteen Teaching Enhancement grants have been awarded to faculty to develop innovative semester courses, with an emphasis on the core curriculum.

Sudkamp encourages colleges to submit their new degree programs and semester courses for approval by the Faculty Senate and Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee as soon as feasible. As of mid-August, 38 of the approximately 190 degree programs have been approved. Nearly 800 undergraduate and 400 graduate courses, out of the 5,000-course inventory, also have been approved. The deadline is September 30 for course submissions and October 1 for program submissions. All of these will need to go through the approval process

before the end of Fall Quarter.

As new programs are approved, they are encoded into DARS (Degree Audit Reporting System) by staff in the Registrar’s Office. As semester courses are approved, they are encoded into the Banner system. Encoding is a mammoth process, and a “war room” has been created offsite for four encoders. All programs and courses will be encoded and tested by the end of Winter Quarter.

Wright State’s Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) and Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) courses will be submitted for state approval by the end of December. The Articulation and Transfer Committee has been working with representatives from Sinclair and Clark State Community Colleges, which are also moving to semesters in fall 2012.

**SEMESTERS** Continued on page 8

C O L L A B O R A T I O N

## Wright State partners with Human Race on award-winning play

**TIME MAGAZINE** called it the best play of the decade. It has won numerous awards including the 2008 Tony Award for best play and the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. This fall, it comes to the Dayton region for the first time.

Wright State University Theatre will open its 2010-2011 season with *August: Osage County*, the critically acclaimed dramatic comedy about three generations of a dysfunctional Oklahoma family brought together by the disappearance of the family patriarch. This will be the Ohio premiere of *August*, outside of the national tour. The show will be the first co-production between Wright State University and The Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton’s professional theatre company.

*August: Osage County* deals with every controversial topic from drug abuse to incest and features some pretty strong language. But patrons shouldn’t be fooled by the show’s adult themes or its runtime of more than three hours: critics call the play fast paced and incredibly funny.



**Stuart McDowell** (left), chair and artistic director of the Wright State Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures, and **Scott Stoney** (right), Human Race Theatre Company resident artist, oversee construction of the set for *August: Osage County*.

“It rivets you and it doesn’t let go,” says Human Race resident artist Scott Stoney, who will co-direct the show with Human Race Artistic Director Marsha Hanna. “This is right up the Human Race’s alley. It’s cutting edge, award winning, and relationship driven.”

The cast will be made up of seven professional actors, two of whom understudied their roles in the Broadway production, and six Wright State students. The crew will

also be a mix of students and professionals. Students will earn points toward their membership in the Actors’ Equity Association, the labor union for professional actors.

“It’s unlimited what our students can learn from working with this caliber of an ensemble,” said W. Stuart McDowell, chair and artistic director of the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures. McDowell hopes that this landmark production is only the beginning of

a long relationship with The Human Race.

“We definitely want to keep the collaboration going,” he said.

*August: Osage County* will be presented from September 23 to October 10 on the Wright State Festival Playhouse Stage. Wright State’s Center for Excellence in Collaborative Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts (CELIA) will sponsor the production. For tickets, call the Wright State Theatre Box Office at (937) 775-2500.



Daryl R. Hopkins

THE START OF ANOTHER ACADEMIC YEAR is always an exciting time. I especially enjoy Move-In Day and watching the enthusiasm and anticipation of our new students as they get settled in to college life for the first time. What particularly touches me about Move-In Day is how many of you embrace the day and give so unselfishly of your time to help our students and parents feel part of the Wright State family. As I watched so many of you driving golf carts and carrying our students' personal belongings in and out of the residence halls, it reminded me of how much each of you contributes to the Wright State community.

A university is only as good as its people. At Wright State, we are so fortunate to have faculty and staff who are leaders in their fields, innovators in their thinking, and mentors to their students and colleagues. That is why we have chosen "Our Legacy of People, Our Tradition of Excellence" as the theme for the 2010–2011 academic year.

This year is a celebration of each of you and how you have made Wright State a nationally recognized university for excellence and innovation. We could not have achieved any of this without your dedication, commitment, and love of this

THIS YEAR IS A CELEBRATION OF EACH OF YOU AND HOW YOU HAVE MADE WRIGHT STATE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED UNIVERSITY FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION.

university. You have brought every strategy to life and helped us attain every goal.

My pledge to you is to always nurture an environment where you can do good work and make a lasting impact for decades to come. And to create a culture where all ideas and opinions are valued. One step toward achieving this vision is to build a diverse leadership team. Following the recent retirements of several deans and other administrators, we welcomed a new senior leadership team. I believe these individuals represent the diversity of our community and

they are committed to the culture of inclusion that we value at Wright State.

Along with celebrating our legacy of people and tradition of excellence, much of our work this year will focus on promoting diversity and inclusion. As part of our operational plan, we will take an in-depth look at the Wright State culture and ask ourselves: Where are we now? How do we get to where we want to be? How can we prepare our graduates to thrive in a diverse world?

As always, I look forward to your input on all of these initiatives. Thank you for everything you do for Wright State University and our students. Here's to another great year!



Presidential Lecture Series 2010–2011



Our Legacy of People. Our Tradition of Excellence.

The Wright State University Presidential Lecture Series was developed to advance human justice and promote the university's commitment to creating a diverse community and learning environment. This year's speakers bring unique insights and experiences to address social issues of our time.



**Ishmael Beah**  
Author and Former Child Soldier from Sierra Leone

September 3  
During Freshman Convocation  
3:00 p.m.  
Nutter Center



**Andy Imparato**  
President/CEO of The American Association of People with Disabilities

October 18  
7:00 p.m.  
Student Union  
Apollo Room



**Robin Guenther**  
Sustainability Expert

October 21  
7:00 p.m.  
Student Union  
Apollo Room



**Charlayne Hunter-Gault**  
Award-Winning Journalist

January 31  
7:00 p.m.  
Student Union  
Apollo Room



**Alison Gannett**  
Extreme Skier and Founder of Save Our Snow Foundation

February 8  
7:00 p.m.  
Student Union  
Apollo Room



**Kate Bornstein**  
Author, Performance Artist, and Advocate for Teens, Freaks, and Other Outlaws

April 18  
7:00 p.m.  
Student Union  
Apollo Room

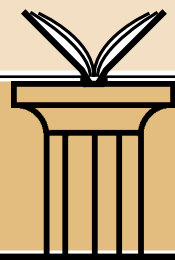


**Jim Hightower**  
America's #1 Populist

May 9  
7:00 p.m.  
Student Union  
Apollo Room

Please also join our Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center for these events:

- Elder Berniece King, January 13, 2011
- The Reverend Jeremiah Wright, January 18, 2011
- The Watoto Children's Choir, date TBD



2010 FACULTY AWARDS

For Excellence



**TRUSTEES AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE**

**AMIT SHETH**

In addition to his duties as the Lexis-Nexis Ohio Eminent Scholar for Advanced Data Management and Analysis, Amit Sheth serves as director of the Ohio Center of Excellence in Knowledge-Enabled Computing (Kno.e.sis).

Kno.e.sis has one of the largest academic research groups in Semantic Web/Web 3.0 that is pioneering new techniques in knowledge- and semantic-enabled computing. The center has 15 faculty members led by Sheth, supports 45 researchers (mainly Ph.D. students), and directs research in nine labs.

"Dr. Sheth's research accomplishments are extraordinary," said Thomas Sudkamp, associate provost for undergraduate studies and the University College. "His publications span a wide variety of research topics including information integration, metadata, workflow management, semantic web, web and knowledge services, and services science—he has made significant contributions in all of these areas. His extensive list of publications includes co-authoring two books, co-editing six more, and authorship of 50 journal papers, one of which is the most cited paper in query processing using multiple ontologies."

But what truly sets Sheth apart is the guidance and leadership he provides to his students, helping them establish themselves as the next generation of leaders in their field. "A true teacher and mentor, Dr. Sheth takes greater pride in the accomplishments of his students than obtaining personal recognition," said Sudkamp.

Bor Jang, former dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, said of Sheth, "He is the quintessential professor who has consistently excelled in all areas of academic endeavor. In terms of publishing, academics, leadership, and economic impact, he is without peer at Wright State University."



**UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR**

**CHERYL MEYER**

As a professor in the School of Professional Psychology (SOPP), Cheryl Meyer has tackled one of the most difficult subject matters imaginable—mothers who kill their children. Her 2001 book, *Mothers Who Kill Their Children: Understanding the Acts of Moms from Susan Smith to the Prom Mom*, was a bestseller for New York University Press and was translated into Japanese in 2003.

In March 2009, Meyer and her co-author, Michelle Oberman, received the Outstanding Book of the Year Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences for their book, *When Mothers Kill: Interviews from Prison* (2008).

"When she began researching this topic, there was very little scholarly information available, particularly addressing a United States population," explained Eve Wolf, associate dean for academic affairs in the SOPP. "Dr. Meyer has become a well-respected authority on the topic. In addition to quantitative data, Dr. Meyer has interviewed 40 women convicted of killing their children. To focus on this horrible crime is a difficult task and emotionally draining. We commend her for her fortitude."

Meyer is furthering her research on maternal filicide by beginning to examine patterns in adoptive mothers who kill their children. Adoptive mothers were a sub-set that Meyer did not explore in her prior research. This is a particularly timely topic in light of recent news that a mother who adopted a child from Russia had returned the child to Russia.

Meyer is currently directing a research project on suicide notes in collaboration with fellow SOPP faculty member Betty Yung and the Montgomery County Coroner's office. "Although this research is unfunded, she has been able to engage seven students in regular work on this innovative project," said Larry James, dean of the SOPP. "It is anticipated that this research will result in a number of presentations and publications—possibly including a book—that will involve the student research group as co-authors."



**ROBERT J. KEGERREIS**  
**DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF TEACHING**

**JACKSON LEUNG**

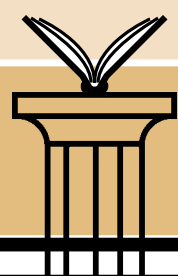
A professor of music, Jackson Leung is an internationally recognized teacher in piano as well as an internationally acclaimed performer. Leung's piano students regularly win competitions not only in the Department of Music, but also regionally, nationally, and internationally.

"Beyond the competitions won by his students, evidence of Dr. Leung's teaching expertise can be seen in his ability to attract not only area students but also international students to Wright State University," said Herbert Dregalla, chair of the Department of Music. "In this regard, it needs to be noted that these students come to Wright State specifically to study piano with Dr. Leung. Upon graduation, these students matriculate at prestigious graduate schools all over the country, many times with assistantship or scholarship awards. Dr. Leung's former students also hold faculty and accompanist piano positions at many colleges and universities."

Leung also conducts the Wright State University Chamber Orchestra. He has received local, state, national, and international recognition as a conductor and pianist. "His ability as a musical performer of distinction impacts the musical ability and performance level of his students," explained Dregalla. "Dr. Leung's work as a performer of merit positions him as a superb role model for his students."

According to Charles Taylor, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, "Through his teaching, Dr. Leung has elevated the piano studio at Wright State to regional, national, and indeed, international prominence. In his native Macau, there is a piano competition from which winners come to Wright State to study in his piano studio. Dr. Leung is a remarkable teacher fully deserving this recognition by Wright State University."





2010

## FACULTY AWARDS

For Excellence

**BRAGE GOLDING  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR  
OF RESEARCH****MARIANA MORRIS**

Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Mariana Morris is an internationally recognized expert in cardiovascular research. Her international prominence has led to her appointment on numerous editorial boards, including the prestigious journal *Hypertension*. In addition, she has secured more than \$12 million in extramural funding during a time of fierce competition at both the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense.

"It is important to note that her exceptional success securing extramural funding has not focused exclusively on her own research laboratory," said Howard Part, dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine. "Throughout her career she has garnered extramural support for educational and training programs to enhance minority science programs, consistently bringing scores of underrepresented students to campus. Many of these students have gone on to great success."

Morris has sought grant-funded collaborations, particularly via the Department of Education, to facilitate the exchange of students between Wright State and universities in Brazil. "Over the past half-dozen years, several dozen students have participated in these exchanges, leading to productive research, personal enrichment, and cultural exchange," said David Goldstein, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. "For Wright State students, these programs have provided unprecedented opportunity to visit and work overseas. Notably, numerous faculty at Wright State, in Dr. Morris's home department and others, have benefited from these programs."

According to Robert Fyffe, associate dean for research in the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Morris is distinguished and highly recognized for her research in cardiovascular control mechanisms, and has received multiple NIH grants in support of this work. She has published more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles in the last 10 years, in the top journals in the field, including *Hypertension*, *Brain Research*, and the *American Journal of Physiology*. "Given her administrative and other responsibilities, this is a remarkable record of sustained performance at the highest level," said Fyffe.

**FREDERICK A. WHITE  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR  
OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE****LAWRENCE PROCHASKA**

Lawrence Prochaska, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, has given 30 years of dedicated service to Wright State University. During this time, he has served on the University Radiation Safety Committee and has been chair of this important regulatory research committee since 1993.

His commitment to diversity issues on campus has been unparalleled. Prochaska has served on the University Diversity Advocacy Council since 2006, and chairs the Policies and Practices Subcommittee. This leadership resulted in the council authoring a trailing spouse policy for the university that seeks to facilitate the hiring of dual career couples and is currently under review by higher administration.

Prochaska has also been active in planning the annual Quest for Community conference and has chaired the Quest awards subcommittee. He has also served on the University Athletics Council and most recently served on the gender equity committee, which examines and determines policies for gender equity in Wright State's athletics program.

In the College of Science and Mathematics, Prochaska has been chair of the Diversity Committee since 2006, and was named equity advisor for the college on the LEADER Consortium, funded by the National Science Foundation ADVANCE program to promote the advancement of women faculty in the STEM fields.

"Dr. Prochaska is one faculty who rolls up his sleeves and gets the job done without seeking applause or recognition from his colleagues. He is well known for his dedication, service to the university, and his fair and open-minded approach to the academic culture at Wright State," said Steven Berberich, chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

**EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT****HAIBO DONG**

Since joining Wright State in 2006 as an assistant professor of mechanical and materials engineering, Haibo Dong has secured more than \$500,000 in external funding for research. In addition, he is the only faculty member to receive two student-faculty fellowship awards this year from the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute.

In 2009, Dong was the first individual from the College of Engineering and Computer Science to receive the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program award. During his tenure at Wright State, Dong has also built a well-equipped bio-inspired flight analysis laboratory and a flow simulation research group.

He has published eight peer-reviewed journal publications and 10 conference papers. Among these publications, three of them were published in the *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*—the most prestigious journal in the fluid mechanics field—and one of them was selected as the cover. Dong's research on insect and micro air vehicle flights has been nationally recognized and reported by the media, including *Discover* magazine.

"Dr. Dong has also done a great job in teaching and services. For instance, he is the most active junior faculty in our department in supervising the senior design projects (with three teams, a total of 12 students) and his team recently received a Capstone Senior Project award from the Air Force Research Laboratory," said George Huang, chair of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

"His achievements in research, teaching, and service would be significant and impressive for any senior faculty member, and compared to more junior faculty, Dr. Dong's accomplishments and success are simply beyond peer," said Bor Jang, former dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

**EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT****CHAD HAMMERSCHMIDT**

Since joining the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences as an assistant professor in 2007, Chad Hammerschmidt has been leader or co-leader of four ocean research expeditions, all of which have involved Wright State students. An expert on the impacts of methyl-mercury in the environment, Hammerschmidt took students on two-week-long journeys off the coast of New England. Students wrote about their investigations of mercury levels in the Atlantic Ocean via blogs.

Hammerschmidt's research on methyl-mercury has been highlighted in *Science News* and *Oceanus* and featured on the cover of *Environmental Science and Technology*. He was invited to present at the National Institute for Minamata Disease in Minamata City, Japan, which was established in response to one of the worst environmental disasters of methyl-mercury poisoning.

At Wright State, Hammerschmidt has received \$414,000 in external funding and currently holds three grants from the National Science Foundation.

"His 30 collective publications appear in top-flight journals, and his work is nationally and internationally recognized," said Dan Voss, interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. "This would represent a respectable research career for some, but it is an awesome record for one who is but five years removed from his Ph.D."

"In the vital area of teaching, he clearly generates enthusiasm among students, who typically use phrases such as 'fantastic instructor' on student evaluations of his courses," said David Dominic, interim chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. "From my perspective, he is also a fantastic member of the department and one who will continue to bring recognition to the college and to the university."

**EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT****THOMAS ROONEY**

Thomas Rooney joined Wright State as an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in 2006. "Dr. Rooney's area of research specialization is landscape-scale ecology; that is, he seeks to understand the factors that determine the structure of ecological communities over relatively large geographic areas," explained David Goldstein, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. "Since arriving at Wright State, Dr. Rooney has pursued research on these topics with vigor. His record of publications is top notch, with more than a dozen papers and chapters in a diverse array of excellent journals and books."

Rooney co-authored *The Vanishing Present: Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters, and Wildlife*—a book the *Quarterly Review of Biology* called "essential" for "every ecologist, land manager, or policymaker in Wisconsin and adjacent areas . . . those living in other parts of the world will wish they had something like it."

Rooney has been successful at engaging non-science majors in the issues and science of ecology and biodiversity. He has received rave reviews from students for his BIO 106 Biodiversity class. Recent student evaluations included such comments as: "I don't like science but enjoyed this class," "He is clear and explains everything to make sure we understand," and "He is freaking awesome!" Rooney received the College of Science and Mathematics award for Teaching Excellence in his third year at Wright State.

For biology majors, Rooney has developed a number of new courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. One of the most noteworthy has been the Amazon Ecology course. This combines a Fall Quarter preparatory course with a two-week expedition to a South American rain forest. In its first two years, approximately 20 students have journeyed to either the Peruvian or Ecuadorian Amazon.

"I know that providing students with this opportunity has been extremely fulfilling for Dr. Rooney," said Goldstein. "At the same time, he has opened a few more eyes to the issues confronting one of the Earth's great, imperiled wonders."

**OUTSTANDING LECTURER****MINDY DIESSLIN**

Mindy Diesslin from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is this year's Outstanding Lecturer. Diesslin developed and routinely offers the department's first online course—MTH 145—a general education math course primarily serving the College of Liberal Arts.

"She has continued to teach this course since its inception and has endured the difficulty of testing the students, often without a testing center to help," said Linda Lester, a fellow lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. "On occasion, when a student cannot make it to one of the designated times for testing, she has met them off campus and even in her home. This shows a consideration for students well beyond the norm."

Diesslin is also active in Wright-Math, a program that gives minority students the option to meet outside the classroom and office with a teacher to receive further help with their class work. "This does not involve any extra pay and is a testament to her dedication to student achievement and service to our department," Lester explained.

Diesslin has been the department's representative on Wright State's General Education Committee for several years. She has played an active role during the semester conversion process and the writing and rewriting of programs and assessment procedures.

Diesslin's greatest supporters are her students, who routinely shower her with words of praise in their student evaluations. "I absolutely love the way Professor Diesslin teaches," wrote one student. "She is very helpful and extremely patient. She always gives examples and makes sure the students understand before moving on. Possibly the best professor at Wright State University."

**OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTOR****PASCALE ABADIE**

Pascale Abadie, an instructor of French in the Department of Modern Languages, is this year's Outstanding Instructor.

"Pascale's teaching is such that, when she walks into a room, she infects and affects everyone there with her energy. Like the best of teachers, she actively 'works the room,' challenging her students... and always gets results," said Stefan Pugh, chair of the Department of Modern Languages. "She inspires such devotion that she is partly responsible for greater numbers of French majors and minors; there is also very wide participation in French Club activities because of Pascale."

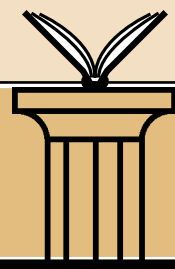
According to Marie Hertzler, assistant professor of French, Abadie "inspires her students to learn French through her enthusiasm and generosity of spirit, and places it within their grasp through her competence in the communicative approach to language acquisition."

Abadie has developed three conversation courses that expose students to French culture as they hone their speaking skills. "These courses are always tops on the list of students of French," said Hertzler. Abadie has also led Wright State students on ambassador programs to France and has been co-sponsor of the French Club for the last two years.

Abadie is an integral part of the planning committee for the annual French Immersion Day for high school students and the annual French Immersion Workshop for teachers.

"Madame Pascale is a wonderful instructor who makes learning fun and interesting," wrote one student. "She is patient, kind, and understanding—all important when stepping into a foreign language!"





# 2010

## P R E S I D E N T ' S A W A R D S

## For Excellence



					
<b>LEADERSHIP (UNCLASSIFIED)</b>	<b>LEADERSHIP (CLASSIFIED)</b>	<b>HUMAN RELATIONS (UNCLASSIFIED)</b>	<b>HUMAN RELATIONS (CLASSIFIED)</b>	<b>SERVICE (UNCLASSIFIED)</b>	<b>SERVICE (CLASSIFIED)</b>
<b>AMBER VLASNIK</b>	<b>BRYAN VEST</b>	<b>CHERYL HUTCHINSON</b>	<b>JULIA WILLIAMS</b>	<b>NYCIA BOLDS</b>	<b>EDWARD DEPP</b>
<p>As director of the Women's Center since 2006, Amber Vlasnik uses collaboration and creativity to reach out to the entire university community.</p> <p>Michael Tenney, a College of Liberal Arts student who nominated her for the honor, said Vlasnik excels as a role model and mentor. Tenney and others who supported the nomination praised Vlasnik's efforts to forge stronger ties to the Lake Campus and to visit that campus monthly "to present topics that are relevant to the unique demographic that Lake Campus students represent."</p> <p>"Amber demonstrates excellence in the way she consistently lives out her values...and is passionate about living her values as an advocate for the underserved," said Elizabeth Beemer, graduate assistant for Greek life. "She is intelligent, creative, innovative, and embodies the mission of our institution when it comes to inclusivity."</p> <p>Tenney said, "Ms. Vlasnik is easily categorized as a leader" at the university. "Her leadership helps the minority students feel accepted and celebrated within the Wright State culture. These students in turn help educate each other and the student body at large. Without this influence and diversity, students would be disadvantaged when entering the global workforce. I have always felt that Wright State seeks to educate for participation in the world: Ms. Vlasnik fulfills this goal."</p> <p>"In terms of leadership, Amber serves as an excellent role model to Lake Campus students, and it is a true blessing that she comes here and empowers women students to feel as though they can make a difference," said Sandi Holdheide, director of public relations and student services at Lake Campus. "As women in this region, many of them first-generation college students, look for leaders to emulate and follow, having Amber illustrate a path to success has been a truly valuable experience for our students."</p>	<p>Bryan Vest has found ways to save the university thousands of dollars since being named to the newly created position of energy scheduling coordinator less than two years ago.</p> <p>"He has shown a great willingness and positive attitude that is a leadership role model for others," said Jeff Trick, physical plant director, who nominated Vest for the honor. "Bryan is never too busy to assist our customers, our HVAC staff, or the contractors on our energy project. He not only takes on additional duties as asked, but he does so eagerly."</p> <p>Bill Knotts, associate director of physical plant, said Vest saved the university some \$58,000 in utility costs in his first five months on the job. "His knowledge of the heating and cooling systems used on campus make him an invaluable asset to the university."</p> <p>Chris Wadham, manager of plant operations and maintenance, said Vest has "improved our response time to customer calls for service, made meaningful and timely suggestions for improvements, and worked with our customers in a positive manner to improve our credibility and increase the effectiveness of the entire Physical Plant Department."</p> <p>Ted Terrell, project coordinator for engineering and construction, said Vest's character is reflected by the fact that he took a pay cut to assume the energy scheduling position but did so anyway because he believed the assignment had potential and would allow him to develop new skills.</p> <p>"Bryan's technical expertise in the HVAC field and his many years of experience as a HVAC technician on our campus make him an invaluable member of my Physical Plant team," added Trick.</p>	<p>Cheryl Hutchinson serves the university with dedication and compassion as the assistant director for donor relations. "Cheryl helps create an environment in which our donors and students feel valued for their contributions to our vision and mission," said Anna Magnusson, director of donor relations and advancement communications, who nominated Hutchinson for the award.</p> <p>Magnusson said Hutchinson demonstrates excellence as "a person of integrity and honor who is found in tasks as easy as answering the phone and as complicated as drafting an endowment agreement." Describing Hutchinson as nurturing, fair, passionate, dedicated, and caring, Magnusson said, "I cannot imagine working with a better human being than Cheryl Hutchinson. She is an extraordinary team member and friend."</p> <p>Bill Shepard, assistant vice president for university programs, said, "Cheryl does an outstanding job of working with all members of the internal and external community to help Wright State University connect people to our mission."</p> <p>Karen Nevius, coordinator for development and public relations for the Wright State Libraries, said, "Cheryl is the premier example of excellent human relations for Wright State. She knows every single aspect of events, donor recognition, and donor stewardship. She is patient, knowledgeable, kind, and helpful in sharing her expertise with those who seek her guidance."</p> <p>Magnusson said Hutchinson's compassion is reflected through many scholarship recipient stories that have brought her to tears. "She shares these with her colleagues with such pride—for not only the students, but the donors who support these dreams.</p> <p>"Cheryl strives to promote enthusiasm, harmony, gender equity, and diversity in the unit and campus as a whole," said Magnusson. "She is recognized as a development expert in scholarship agreements, endowed fund reporting, and acknowledgement. Cheryl typically provides excellent customer service and demonstrates superior communication skills to both internal and external customers."</p>	<p>Julia Williams is much more than an administrative specialist in the Anatomical Gift Program at the Boonshoft School of Medicine.</p> <p>Frank Nagy, program director, said in nominating her for the honor that "she is, at once, an administrative specialist, a counselor, a father confessor, and is often asked to be an arbiter."</p> <p>In describing her as a "tremendous asset" to the program, Nagy said that Williams has "an excellent grasp of what it means to treat people well and with respect. She has an unusual ability to be sensitive to and empathize with people's individual needs and recognize their individual circumstances."</p> <p>Her duties involve working with potential anatomical donors who are making preparations for their own deaths and/or people who have just experienced the loss of a loved one whose remains have recently been transferred to the medical school. She is usually the first contact people have with the program.</p> <p>"Julia is the consummate equalizer who makes people know that each is highly respected for his or her gift to the human community. When donors learn that Julia is personally a registered donor in the Anatomical Gift program, any lingering angst is put to rest," Nagy said. "Her high ethical standards are evident to all and she presents a very positive image of the Anatomical Gift Program and Wright State University."</p> <p>Debra Hendershot, director of the Interdisciplinary Teaching Laboratory in the Boonshoft School of Medicine, said someone in Williams' position "must exhibit a special sensitivity with compassionate communication skills to work with families at such a difficult time as the loss of a loved one, and Julia handles these situations with a special touch. She successfully handles all the necessary paperwork from donation to all the paperwork following the death."</p>	<p>Nycia Bolds is dedicated to meeting the needs of all Wright State students, especially those with international backgrounds. As special programs coordinator with the University Center for International Education (UCIE), she helps students from other lands adjust to America and college life at Wright State.</p> <p>"She has the international students' best interest at heart but is also very dedicated in helping to carry out the university's mission in making our campus an all-inclusive environment for all students," said Joyce Smith, a benefits coordinator in student health, who nominated Bolds for the award.</p> <p>Smith said Bolds goes beyond helping just international students. She is currently a facilitator for the Dialogue on Race Relations, a member of the University Diversity Advocacy Council, and a member of the Organization for Black Faculty and Staff. She attended the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity to enhance her professional skills "in working with students from such diverse backgrounds and those who are underrepresented."</p> <p>Bolds' interest in helping incoming students learn about diversity resulted in establishing a class on this subject that she teaches.</p> <p>"Her vision of helping students goes beyond a job...It has become a passion for her," said Smith, who noted that Bolds opened her home in recent years on special holidays to host international students who had no place to go. "She wanted to introduce students to the American culture and tradition of celebrating the holidays."</p> <p>According to Michelle Streeter-Ferrari, UCIE director, "Nycia is very committed to promoting diversity and has been an advocate for our international students, including them and recruiting them for a variety of programs. She gives her time as a mentor to our students, both national and international. She makes it a point to reach out to those students who may not otherwise participate in activities provided by UCIE or other campus units."</p>	<p>Edward Depp is an administrative support coordinator for affirmative action, but his contributions to the university go far beyond this position.</p> <p>He is active with the Classified Staff Advisory Council, University Diversity Advisory Council, the Martin Luther King, Jr., events planning committee, and the Organization for Black Faculty and Staff. He also helps in the Quest for Community diversity conference planning and with Minority Health Month programs.</p> <p>"His impressive work ethic enables him to go beyond his actual job responsibility and provide service that makes the community better," said Juanita Wehrle-Einhorn, director of affirmative action programs, who nominated Depp for the award.</p> <p>"Edward offers great customer service and plays a distinct role in meeting the responsibility of our office, which included helping revise the recruitment procedures of our office," she added. "He also gives students the kind of guidance and encouragement that is especially meaningful to them and helps keep them on track. As a respected and successful African American man, Edward's support is especially credible and effective. He helps make the students better students. He helps make Wright State a better university."</p> <p>Dan Voss, interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, said Depp is "highly competent and a pleasure to work with" when the college is involved in faculty search assignments. Carl Brun, chair and professor of social work, added, "Edward Depp's service to this university, especially to promote the benefits of diversity to all students, faculty, and staff, is endless."</p> <p>Gary LeRoy, vice president for multicultural affairs and community engagement, said, "Edward has always been our go-to guy when we need something done and we need it done right. He is that quiet spirit that moves among us and makes certain that service is rendered in a mature, sensitive, and dignified manner."</p>

### OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNIT

#### DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

The Dual Enrollment Management Program between the Dayton Campus and Lake Campus provides dual enrollment access to interested high school students consistent with the Ohio CORE legislation and University System of Ohio Ten Year Strategic Plan for Higher Education. The program involves a variety of academic disciplines and the registrar, bursar, and admissions offices at both campuses. Over the past three years, some 750 students at 52 high schools have earned more than 3,750 credit hours in over 135 class sections at this innovative enrollment opportunity. The students earn both high school and university credits at a discounted tuition rate.

"The academic support, guidance, and mentoring provided by the Dayton and Lake faculty from the designated departments, divisions, and colleges continues to lead the academic success and ongoing expansion of the dual enrollment program," said Pamela Wallace-Stroble, who nominated the project for the award. She said another benefit of the program is the opportunity for Wright State faculty to collaborate with high school teachers, share academic expertise, and serve as ongoing collegial mentors for the instructors.

#### SPIRIT OF INNOVATION

##### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Staff Development Day (SDD) is a joint project over the last six years of the Classified and Unclassified Staff Advisory Councils.

Members of both councils and an SDD committee combine efforts to develop programs that are relevant to today's world, said Barbara Bullock, director of institutional research, who nominated the SDD for the Spirit of Innovation award.

"Staff Development Day creates opportunities for staff to meet each other in an environment outside their offices and cubicles, knowing that their interaction will provoke new ideas and help staff keep open minds," she said. "Lifelong learning and professional development are components of the Wright State Strategic Plan, and the programming offered at Staff Development Day is designed to support both."

Staff Development Day has had more than 4,500 participants over the years.



### OUTSTANDING UNIT

#### OFFICE OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND AUDIT SERVICES

The Office of Internal Controls and Audit Services (OICAS) is a small office on campus that flies under the radar and without much notice or recognition. But that doesn't detract from the key role its staff plays in the financial health of the university.

"For more than 10 years I have witnessed their professionalism and dedication to excellence," said accountancy professor Susan Lightle, who nominated OICAS for the award. She said they are efficient and effective and "work hard to maintain a positive working relationship with the various units they audit, but at the same time they are not afraid to ask tough questions and issue an audit report with critical findings."

Lightle termed their impact on campus enormous. "Through their audits they touch virtually every aspect of university life, always with the goal of making recommendations to improve fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency and effectiveness, and regulatory compliance."

Art Neff, executive director of business services, said, "The OICAS staff is knowledgeable, insightful, and has a thorough understanding in all aspects of the management, business function, and internal controls and policies of the university."







# Come out, come out, wherever you are!

**THE THRILL**, trepidation, and excitement of beginning your first day at Wright State University...do you recall your first day? For many



university employees, that first day at Wright State goes back well before their employment date, to their first day of classes.

All across campus, these Wright State alumni busy themselves in educating or serving the next generation of Raiders. Excluding student workers, there are currently 1,094 alumni employed by Wright State.

This year, we encourage all of our alumni employees to come out in full force to Get Back With the Pack for Homecoming. Festivities include the popular and fun Homecoming Festival on Friday, October 1. Tempt your taste buds during the Fourth Annual Chili Cook-off and cheer for your Raider soccer teams!

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center, the Wright State University African American Alumni Society will host a reunion on Saturday, October 2. This alumni group includes African and African American graduates, retired faculty and staff, recipients of honorary degrees from Wright State, and students who attended the university for at least one term in good standing.

Not a graduate of Wright State? You're still invited to come out and meet the rest of the pack! For more information about Homecoming, please email [alumni@wright.edu](mailto:alumni@wright.edu) or call the Office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620.

## HOMECOMING 2010

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

Homecoming Festival, 5 to 9 p.m.  
Women's soccer vs. Detroit, 5 p.m.  
College of Science and Math Connect, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Men's soccer vs. Loyola, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

Campus Tours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
African American Alumni Reunion, 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.

View the complete schedule and details:  
[www.wright.edu/homecoming](http://www.wright.edu/homecoming)

## In Memory of Matt Melko



**PROFESSOR EMERITUS MATT MELKO** passed away on August 9. Melko was a professor of sociology and a prior chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. A graduate of Alfred University, Melko earned master's degrees from the University of Chicago and Columbia University School of Journalism and a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He authored and co-authored several books and articles on peace, war, and the nature of civilizations. He was a founder and active member of the International Society for the Comparative Studies of Civilizations.

"The world is certainly a bit poorer without Matt's unique perspective, warm personality, and keen sense of dry wit," said David Barr, chair of the Departments of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics. "The fun of talking with Matt was that he was completely unpredictable. And the scope of his interest was enormous."

Cathy Sayer, director of service learning, recalled working with Melko when the Office of Service-Learning opened in 2007. "Matt walked into my office to try to find some help for the after-school program at Dayton Urban Ministries, a faith-based not-for-profit that was dear to his heart," said Sayer. "He had helped develop and organize a library to benefit the children and families served by the ministry and spoke passionately about the impact the ministry was having on its neighborhood. He convinced me, but it took some time to identify the appropriate courses and faculty for the project. Last year, however, students in three Wright State classes and several lone volunteers served as tutors and mentors at Dayton Urban Ministries, and we will continue to try to grow that partnership for the benefit of both Wright State students and the children and young adults there."

Sayer added, "Thank you, Matt, for helping the Office of Service-Learning get our start; and know that you are continuing to make a difference in the lives of so many in our community."

Melko is survived by his wife, Nelle; daughters Julie Melko and Ellen Moore; son Peter Melko; and four grandchildren.

### SEMESTERS *Continued from page 1*

The new program requirements and course descriptions will be available to students in the Spring Quarter, when students and advisors begin to jointly develop individual advising plans for "transition" students. These plans, called My Advising Plans or MAPs, map the courses and schedules needed for a student who began on quarters to complete his or her degree under the semester program. The STT Academic Advising Committee and Information Technology Committee are working together with Computing and Telecommunications Services (CaTS) to develop software for creating and saving the MAPs.

Because full-time students will typically take five courses per semester versus the current four courses per quarter, a classroom planning study is under way to determine if classroom availability will meet the increased need.

A Semesters booth at Fall Fest on September 10 helped get the word out to students. Representatives from the 16 state institutions switching to semesters in 2012 will attend a Statewide Semesters Summit on October 25 at The Ohio State University. Faculty and staff can access [www.wright.edu/academicaffairs/semesters](http://www.wright.edu/academicaffairs/semesters) for STT updates.

## Wright State Trustee John Kunesh devoted to eye care

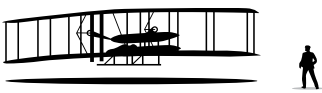


**JOHN KUNESH, M.D.**, was appointed to the Wright State University Board of Trustees in 2005 for a term that expires in 2014. He was named secretary of the Trustees this past July.

Kunesh, a managing partner of the Kunesh Eye Center, Inc., in Dayton, is engaged in several professional and community service activities. He is an assistant clinical professor for the Division of Ophthalmology in the Department of Surgery at Wright State's Boonshoft School of Medicine, and he serves as a surgical instructor at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Eye Clinic.

Kunesh is a volunteer physician for the Reach Out Montgomery County Clinic and Prevent Blindness Ohio. He has served on the associate board of the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, is a past president of the Dayton Area Society of Ophthalmology, and serves on the Ohio Ophthalmological Society Board.

Kunesh attended Alter High School in Dayton and went on to earn a B.S. degree summa cum laude from Notre Dame and a medical degree magna cum laude from The Ohio State University.



WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY



Printed on Recycled Paper