Wright State receives statewide recognition for Centers of Excellence

On February 19, Governor Ted Strickland and Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, named Wright State University’s Centers of Excellence in BioHealth Innovation as Ohio Centers of Excellence. The Centers of Excellence in BioHealth Innovation are composed of three Wright State centers—the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute, the National Center for Medical Readiness, and the Center of Excellence in Knowledge-Enabled Computing (Knoe.sis).

“Aligning Ohio universities with Ohio’s growing biomedical and health care industries will generate economic growth and new, hard-to-outsource jobs,” Strickland said. “Biomedicine and health care in Ohio create high-wage jobs, investments in facilities, research and development, and production. But much more than that, these industries bring forth medical break-throughs that benefit citizens of Ohio and citizens of the world.”

Wright State’s centers were among those recognized at 14 Ohio universities for excellence in biomedicine and health care. “The biomedical and health care sectors are two of the fastest growing industries in the country,” said Fingerhut. “Each Center of Excellence brings unique approaches that, together, will drive economic growth and establish Ohio as the national leader in biomedicine and health care.”

“We are honored to have three of our centers recognized for excellence in biomedicine and health care,” said President David Hopkins. “This announcement further establishes the impact Wright State has on the economy of Ohio. We are appreciative of the Governor’s and Chancellor’s continued support of our initiatives.”

The Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute will speed the transfer of research discoveries from bench to bedside, improving the diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders, such as strokes and the complications of injuries or diabetes. Dr. Timothy Cope, chair of the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology, is director of the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute.

With medicine as its core component, the National Center for Medical Readiness will offer research and training for medical, public health, public safety, and civilian and military disaster-response decision makers from around the world. Dr. Mark Gebhart, associate professor of emergency medicine at Wright State’s Boonshoft School of Medicine, leads the National Center for Medical Readiness.

The Ohio Center of Excellence in Knowledge-Enabled Computing (Knoe.sis) uses the latest technology in semantic computing and Web 3.0 to translate massive amounts of data into meaningful information. For example, the center is currently working on a project to integrate patient data from seven different databases, streamlining access to medical information.

Wright State and Premier Health Partners create Neuroscience Institute

Wright State University and Premier Health Partners have joined forces to create the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute, Governor Ted Strickland and Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, joined officials from Wright State and Premier Health Partners to make the announcement on February 24 at Miami Valley Hospital.

The Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute will improve the diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders such as stroke. This major public-private initiative partners the Dayton region’s strongest biomedical research institution with the clinical resources of the region’s leading hospital system.

Premier Health Partners has made a major investment of $4.35 million over five years to create a new Department of Neurology within Wright State’s Boonshoft School of Medicine. The investment includes long-term support for clinical neurologists, who will form the nucleus for collaboration with the university-based neuroscientists in critical research in stroke and movement disorders. A national search is under way for the founding chair of the new department.

“By leveraging our considerable NIH-funded research strengths along with Premier’s extensive clinical resources, we will make new break-throughs in a broad range of neurological disorders,” said President David Hopkins. “The university and hospital system are committed to investing significant fiscal resources to recruit new physician-scientists to join our talented faculty in the institute, with the goal of providing improved neurological care for our community as well as longer-term clinical trials and continuing research.”

Premier Health Partners and Miami Valley Hospital have enjoyed a strong relationship for many years with Wright State and the school of medicine. Many medical students, residents, and nurses received their clinical training at our hospital,” said Mary Bussals, president and chief executive officer of Miami Valley Hospital. “This partnership helps us expand our capacity for innovation and will carry our community into a new age of discovery and leadership in the areas of science and medicine. This announcement will

Continued on page 52
The 2009–2010 academic year at Wright State University has been “The Year of Innovation”—a time for creating a culture of innovation as we continue our quest to become one of the most innovative universities in not only Ohio, but the nation.

One of our most significant accomplishments during “The Year of Innovation” was the creation of seven Centers of Excellence at Wright State. Many of you have probably been hearing about these new centers, but you may not know what they do or why they are so significant to Wright State.

The Centers of Excellence set Wright State apart from other universities in Ohio and throughout the nation. Each center has an area of expertise that is unique to that particular center. For example, the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute will focus on movement disorders. There are hospitals and research centers across the country that specialize in neuroscience. What makes our Neuroscience Institute unique is that it will go beyond nerve regeneration and examine how to restore normal movement to stroke survivors and people living with Parkinson’s, ALS, and other neurological disorders.

The National Center for Medical Readiness is a one-of-a-kind facility that will offer research and training for medical, public health, public safety, and civilian and military disaster-response decision makers from around the world. There are about a half-dozen disaster-training sites in the United States, but none of them have medicine as their central component, like the National Center for Medical Readiness.

All of our centers will focus on how to improve lives and create jobs for our region. The Center of Excellence in Micro Air Vehicle Research will form partnerships with the military and private industry and attract companies specializing in micro air vehicles to the area. The Dayton region could one day become the Silicon Valley for micro air vehicles.

The Ohio Center of Excellence in Human-Centered Innovation could transform how humans and technology interact. How will the cars of the future help you avoid a crash rather than just protect you when one occurs? How could airplanes fly without radar and air traffic controllers? What type of technology will help the elderly stay in their homes longer? Those are the types of questions this center will answer.

Wright State exceeds United Way goal

The Wright State University community exceeded its goal in this year’s United Way campaign by raising $102,356 said Jennie Cabrera, who co-chaired the campus drive with Kathy Keister. The campaign goal was $102,000.

“We are delighted to exceed our goal in these difficult economic times,” said President David Hopkins. “It shows that our faculty, staff, and administrators recognize how important it is to help those in need when times are tough. This is another example of how all of us working together can collectively make a positive difference in the communities we serve.”

One in four people living in the Dayton area receive United Way services from the more than 80 partner agencies. According to Cabrera, pledges were received from approximately 500 members of the campus community.
Documentary filmmakers nominated for an Academy Award

HOPEFUL TO BRING An OSCAR statue back to Dayton, documentary filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar walked the red carpet at the Academy Awards with members of their cast and crew on March 7. While the film they produced and directed — The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant — fell short of an Oscar, Reichert and Bognar felt honored by the nomination and the attention it brought to their story and Wright State.

“It would have been great to bring the statue home to Dayton, but it’s been an experience and honor to be part of this process and this incredibly big show,” Bognar, a 1986 graduate of Wright State’s motion pictures program, told the Dayton Daily News.

The Last Truck was nominated for an Academy Award in Best Documentary Short. The powerful documentary about the December 2008 closing of General Motors Corp.’s truck plant and its impact on the lives of the workers was one of five films nominated in the category.

“THE NOMINATION IS A TRIBUTE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY TALENT OF OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS AND IS SHARED WITH OUR MOTION PICTURE GRADUATES LIVING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.”
—President David Hopkins

Four of the GM workers from the film — Kim Clay, Paul Hurst, Kate Geiger, and Kathy Day — and Wright State film alumnus Ben Garchar joined Reichert and Bognar at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

Even though The Last Truck did not win the Oscar — the award went to Music by Prudence — the story of a disabled African singer — the nomination was a major coup for Wright State’s film program.

“Wright State University is extremely proud of our filmmakers and the rest of the Wright State family that helped create the film,” said President David Hopkins. “The nomination is a tribute to the extraordinary talent of our faculty and students and is shared with our motion picture graduates living all over the country.”

The 40-minute film chronicles the shutdown of the GM plant in suburban Moraine, a move that cost 1,100 workers their jobs.

In the film, one worker — tears rolling down his cheeks — says the reality of the plant’s closing didn’t sink in until he had to give up his badge. Another worker referred to the plant as a gentle dragon lying down to die.

“It’s very bittersweet. It’s the kind of film you wish you didn’t have to make,” Reichert said. Speaking on national television, actor Tom Hanks lauded Reichert, Bognar, and the Wright State students who helped make the film. In a live segment on MSNBC’s Morning Joe news program, Hanks described The Last Truck as a “backbreaking piece of work.”

In a recent letter to Stuart McDowell, chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, Dance and Motion Pictures, Hanks described the film as “pure inspiration.”

“Man, did The Last Truck knock me for a loop,” Hanks wrote. “The subject was as intimate and important as any that is in the public eye, and the immediacy of the Wright State filmmakers getting the story down was pure inspiration.”

Bognar said he and Reichert are proud of the documentary, but feel badly for the plight of the workers.

“Everyone in the film is still pretty much suffering. It’s really hard times,” he said. “It just tempers any feeling of joy.”

Bognar said he hopes the subject matter had something to do with the Oscar nomination.

“What the workers here in Dayton went through in that film is being replicated around the nation,” he said. “We are still losing our industrial middle class. It’s going to have a profound impact on the country. The life we’ve known in the past in America is not going to be the same.”

Reichert, a professor of theatre arts and motion pictures, said 90 percent of the film crew consisted of Wright State graduates and faculty members. They endured bone-chilling temperatures during the final week of filming, taking out plant gates and interviewing workers.

“It was great because we have all these people who are well-trained, know how to act, are ethical, know how to operate the equipment, and are within a phone call,” Reichert said. “We really couldn’t have done this without that.”

Working as camera operators, grip/electrics, and post-production assistants were Garchar, Amy Cunningham, David Ackels, Ian Cook, Chance Madison, Doug Schwartz, Joe Lurie, Ann Rotolante, Chris “biZo” Stevens, Matt Harris, Nik Siefke, Erick Stoll, and Matt Zaff.

“It’S VERY BITTERSWEET. IT’S THE KIND OF FILM YOU WISH YOU DIDN’T HAVE TO MAKE.”
—Julia Reichert

Wright State film professor Russ Johnson worked as a camera person, while Jim Klein, also a professor of film in Wright State’s motion pictures department, was both the fine-cut editor on the film and contributor of piano score to the film’s soundtrack.

“What the workers here in Dayton went through in that film is being replicated around the nation,” he said. “We are still losing our industrial middle class. It’s going to have a profound impact on the country. The life we’ve known in the past in America is not going to be the same.”

Reichert, a professor of theatre arts and motion pictures, said 90 percent of the film crew consisted of Wright State graduates and faculty members. They endured bone-chilling temperatures during the final week of filming, taking out plant gates and interviewing workers.

“It was great because we have all these people who are well-trained, know how to act, are ethical, know how to operate the equipment, and are within a phone call,” Reichert said. “We really couldn’t have done this without that.”

Working as camera operators, grip/electrics, and post-production assistants were Garchar, Amy Cunningham, David Ackels, Ian Cook, Chance Madison, Doug Schwartz, Joe Lurie, Ann Rotolante, Chris “biZo” Stevens, Matt Harris, Nik Siefke, Erick Stoll, and Matt Zaff.

“What the workers here in Dayton went through in that film is being replicated around the nation,” he said. “We are still losing our industrial middle class. It’s going to have a profound impact on the country. The life we’ve known in the past in America is not going to be the same.”

Reichert, a professor of theatre arts and motion pictures, said 90 percent of the film crew consisted of Wright State graduates and faculty members. They endured bone-chilling temperatures during the final week of filming, taking out plant gates and interviewing workers.

“It was great because we have all these people who are well-trained, know how to act, are ethical, know how to operate the equipment, and are within a phone call,” Reichert said. “We really couldn’t have done this without that.”

Working as camera operators, grip/electrics, and post-production assistants were Garchar, Amy Cunningham, David Ackels, Ian Cook, Chance Madison, Doug Schwartz, Joe Lurie, Ann Rotolante, Chris “biZo” Stevens, Matt Harris, Nik Siefke, Erick Stoll, and Matt Zaff.

“What it happens is that more people discover the Wright State program because of the Oscar news and realize what an incredible program it is.”
—Steve Bognar

Bognar said the Oscar nomination puts the documentary on a much more visible platform. He hopes it will bring new attention to Wright State’s film program.

“The people who know the Wright State film program already know it’s the best in the state and a world-class program,” Bognar said. “What I hope happens is that more people discover the Wright State program because of the Oscar news and realize what an incredible program it is.”

This is not the first time Reichert and Bognar have focused their collective vision on change and heartbreak — and resiliency in the face of it. A Lion in the House is their feature documentary spanning six years in the lives of five American families who each have a child fighting cancer. Eight years in the making, the film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, won the Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Merit in Non-fiction Filmmaking, was nominated for Best Documentary in the 2007 Independent Spirit Awards — considered the Oscars of the independent film world — and was cited as one of the top 10 films of the year on several prominent surveys.

Dubbed a godmother of American independent film by Filmmaker Magazine, Reichert is a two-time Academy Award nominee for Best Feature Documentary for Seeing Red and Union Maids. These films and two others, Growing Up Female and Methadone — An American Way of Dealing, all screened nationally in the U.S. on PBS.

Bognar and Reichert are currently working on several other projects, some of which they are keeping under wraps. They recently finished editing through 30 years of documentaries on laborers around the world — from coal miners to sugar cane workers — and selecting 11 films to be shown at the Full Frame Festival in Durham, NC.
Wright State University has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

"I'm so very proud of our students, faculty, and staff who are making a difference in our communities," said President David Hopkins. "Our students are passionate about helping others and our faculty are committed to providing innovative learning opportunities that students will carry with them long after they leave Wright State."

Wright State is listed on the Honor Roll with Distinction for its commitment to service. Approximately 4,883 Wright State students were involved in academic service-learning courses or other forms of community service during the 2008-2009 school year, resulting in 226,469 service hours. Examples of service-learning include:

- Engineering students designing projects to aid children with disabilities.
- Students at Wright State mentoring Belmont High School students whose primary language is not English.
- Social work students providing food for backpacks filled with food to 800 at-risk K-3rd grade students on Fridays to make sure they did not go hungry on the weekends.
- Wright State students engaging in tutoring and social activism projects with students at Westwood School in Dayton.
- Wright State main campus students tutoring in a school with a high Appalachian population and Lake Campus students tutoring with the Celina Head Start program.
- "More and more faculty members are incorporating service-learning partnerships that achieve academic objectives while meeting community needs," noted Cathy J. Sayer, director of service learning at Wright State. "Even greater opportunities lie ahead."

The Lake Campus renovation project in -

The Lake Campus project won top design honors in an American Institute of Architects (AIA) competition. The $9 million project, which included $5.5 million in construction costs, received an Honor Award in the AIA Cleveland Chapter competition "for achievement of excellence in architectural design" in the renovation category. The award was presented to Richard Fleischman + Partners Architects, Inc., of Cleveland, the firm that designed the project.

Aaron Hill of the Fleischman firm, project manager for the Lake Campus work, said 72 entries by Cleveland area architects of projects throughout the world were entered in the competition. There were six design winners, and the Lake Campus project was judged the best of the six. Hill said the project will now be submitted for consideration with work from architects throughout Ohio in a statewide competition.

The Lake Campus project involved expansion and renovation of 57,000 square feet in a facility that had not experienced any physical changes since 1979. Almost the entire building was renovated, including classrooms, laboratories, and offices. A 16,000-square-foot, two-story addition houses new science laboratories and the James F. Dicke Hall, a multipurpose center named in honor of the project's lead donor.

The facade of Dicke Hall faces Grand Lake St. Marys and incorporates a 24-foot-high wall of sloped glass to capitalize on the lake view. Other features include a new canopy and walls to create a more prominent entrance to the existing building, and use of large windows in each classroom to provide more natural light. Large colorful coves were created at the entrance to each classroom to break up the long corridors. A balcony was developed for Dicke Hall to create a collegial space for student and faculty interaction.

"It's an exciting time at our campus," said Jim Sayer, dean of Lake Campus. "The changes to our facility revitalized our learning space, and the financial support from our community to make this upgrade possible illustrates how committed our neighbors are to the Lake Campus."

Vicky Davidson, associate vice president for facilities planning and development, said, "I believe the architect translated the vision of the Lake Campus community into reality. We are very pleased that the Lake Campus received this recognition."

Visit www.wright.edu/lake/pictures/renovation to view photos of the Lake Campus renovation.

Diane A. Martin, vice president of community service, said 72 entries by Wright State students engaging in service-learning include:

- Engineering students designing projects to aid children with disabilities.
- Students at Wright State mentoring Belmont High School students whose primary language is not English.
- Social work students providing food for backpacks filled with food to 800 at-risk K-3rd grade students on Fridays to make sure they did not go hungry on the weekends.
- Wright State students engaging in tutoring and social activism projects with students at Westwood School in Dayton.
- Wright State main campus students tutoring in a school with a high Appalachian population and Lake Campus students tutoring with the Celina Head Start program.
- "More and more faculty members are incorporating service-learning partnerships that achieve academic objectives while meeting community needs," noted Cathy J. Sayer, director of service learning at Wright State. "Even greater opportunities lie ahead."

The award was presented to Richard Fleischman + Partners Architects, Inc., of Cleveland, the firm that designed the project.

Aaron Hill of the Fleischman firm, project manager for the Lake Campus work, said 72 entries by Cleveland area architects of projects throughout the world were entered in the competition. There were six design winners, and the Lake Campus project was judged the best of the six. Hill said the project will now be submitted for consideration with work from architects throughout Ohio in a statewide competition.

The Lake Campus project involved expansion and renovation of 57,000 square feet in a facility that had not experienced any physical changes since 1979. Almost the entire building was renovated, including classrooms, laboratories, and offices. A 16,000-square-foot, two-story addition houses new science laboratories and the James F. Dicke Hall, a multipurpose center named in honor of the project's lead donor.

The facade of Dicke Hall faces Grand Lake St. Marys and incorporates a 24-foot-high wall of sloped glass to capitalize on the lake view. Other features include a new canopy and walls to create a more prominent entrance to the existing building, and use of large windows in each classroom to provide more natural light. Large colorful coves were created at the entrance to each classroom to break up the long corridors. A balcony was developed for Dicke Hall to create a collegial space for student and faculty interaction.

"It's an exciting time at our campus," said Jim Sayer, dean of Lake Campus. "The changes to our facility revitalized our learning space, and the financial support from our community to make this upgrade possible illustrates how committed our neighbors are to the Lake Campus."

Vicky Davidson, associate vice president for facilities planning and development, said, "I believe the architect translated the vision of the Lake Campus community into reality. We are very pleased that the Lake Campus received this recognition."

Visit www.wright.edu/lake/pictures/renovation to view photos of the Lake Campus renovation.
Counseling and Wellness Center earns national honor

It wasn’t that long ago that college students seeking assistance at a university counseling center were helped almost exclusively on an individual basis. In recent years things have changed, with more students receiving help with concerns like relationship problems, depression, and anxiety in a group counseling format.

At Wright State University’s Counseling and Wellness Center, group sessions have increased dramatically, and the two leaders of this program have earned a national award for their efforts.

The Group Work Practice Award from the Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) was presented to Martyn Whittingham, Ph.D., and Erin Frick, Psy.D., at ceremonies in Pittsburgh on March 20. Whittingham is an assistant professor at Wright State’s School of Professional Psychology and provides consultation, supervision, and training in group services at the counseling center. Frick serves as a psychologist and coordinator of group services at the center, providing supervision, training, and program development in group services.

Over the last four years, group therapy sessions have increased more than 400 percent, from 220 in 2004-2005 to 912 in 2007-2008, with group sessions now totaling more than 20 percent of the overall service provided. The award from ASGW, which is a division of the American Counseling Association, cited the Wright State program for this growth in numbers, plus its innovations in group practice work and the number of workshops, conferences, and presentations the award winners have delivered.

Robert Rando, Ph.D., director of counseling and wellness services, said Whittingham and Frick have an “infectious enthusiasm for group work” and work together “to develop an excellent service program for our clients, training program for our students, research program for the center, and school and educational program for other mental health professionals.”

Wright State hosts first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Awards

Five individuals who have distinguished themselves through public service to eliminate racism, poverty, or violence were honored at the inaugural Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Awards.

Andrew-Bryce Hudson, chair of the selection committee and assistant director of the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center, said the awards were established “as a way to recognize the unsung heroes on campus and in the community who embody the spirit and legacy of Dr. King.”

Lillie Howard, Ph.D., senior vice president for curriculum and instruction, was honored with a surprise, special Lifetime Achievement Award for her humanitarian contributions to the campus and community as a champion for equity and diversity. Howard is retiring this year after 35 years with the university.

The five service awards were presented to four Wright State community members and one Dayton community member:

• Katie Deedrick, director of student support services, received the staff award, recognizing her work with Wright State students in times of crisis.
• Munsup Seoh, professor of statistics, received the faculty award for his extensive and lengthy work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Dayton chapter.
• Elizabeth Beemer, a graduate student in educational leadership, received the graduate award for her dedication to campus equity issues and overseeing the Take Flight Leadership Retreat.
• Shana Cunningham, a junior and early childhood education major, received the undergraduate award. Cunningham was honored for her leadership of St. Jude Up Till Dawn, a campus group that supports St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
• Anthony Whitmore, director of government and community relations for the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, was honored for his extensive work mentoring young African American males in the Dayton area.

The service award event was sponsored by the Wright State University Multicultural Center—which includes the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center, Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center, and Women’s Center—in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Police department presents annual awards

The Fourth Annual Wright State University Police Department’s Recognition & Awards Banquet was held on February 18. The program was established to honor individuals, units, groups, or other entities that make outstanding contributions toward fulfilling the mission of the agency through their acts of valor or merit and at levels beyond what is normally expected of employees or citizens.

“Rewarding dedicated service and exceptional performance is vital to a healthy organization,” said Michael Martinson, chief of police. “I am very proud of my police officers, communications officers, and administrative staff. They have made great strides over the past year toward enhancing safety and services on campus.”

Recipients of the 2009 awards include:

• Chief’s Award for Excellence: Melissa Vanzant, business manager; Thomas Page, communication center supervisor; David Ratliff, lieutenant; Patrick Ammon, police officer; Richard Coy, sergeant; Joseph Palermo, police officer
• Officer of the Year: Patrick Ammon, police officer and crime prevention coordinator
• Employee of the Year: Melissa Vanzant, business manager
• Medal of Merit: Dena Neal, police officer II
• 110% Customer Service: Carly Porter, police records and business coordinator
• Distinguished Service: Mike Coons, emergency management administrator
• Student Employee Special Recognition: Kannan Narayanan, student employee
• Administrative Award: Dan Bertssos, director, residence services
• Community Policing Award: Richard Coy, sergeant and K-9 handler; Zachary Norman, police officer II; Stephen Powers, police officer II; Dena Neal, police officer II; Thomas Cress, police officer; Tyler Bayliss, police officer; Titto, K-9
• Distinguished Service Award: Lisa Stephens, police records technician
• Honorable Service Award: Patrick Davis, sergeant (25 years); David Finnie, assistant chief of police (10 years); Patrick Ammon, police officer II (5 years); Richard Coy, sergeant (5 years)
The Affiliate Societies Council (ASC) of Dayton presented the 2010 Outstanding Engineers & Scientists Awards to Jennie Gallimore and George Huang.

The College of Engineering and Computer Science professors were honored at the 51st annual ASC awards ceremony on March 4. Gallimore’s expertise and contributions to the human factors engineering (HFE) field are extensive and include helping establish the first HFE undergraduate program in the nation at Wright State. She is described as “demonstrating a relentless commitment to students and their evolving needs,” which includes teaching 16 different HFE courses.

In addition to serving as a professor of biomedical, industrial, and human factors engineering, Gallimore is director of the Ohio Center of Excellence in Human-Centered Innovation. She is also a professor of surgery in the Boonshoft School of Medicine. This medical school appointment allows her to apply HFE principles to health care issues.

Gallimore’s expertise and contributions to the human factors engineering (HFE) field are extensive and include helping establish the first HFE undergraduate program in the nation at Wright State.

Since the State of Ohio selected the Center of Excellence in Human-Centered Innovation as an Ohio Center of Excellence, Gallimore has brought in $3 million from the state and brokered another $5 million from the Air Force. As center director, she helped arrange the participation of 56 faculty members from six Wright State colleges.

“Dr. Gallimore is truly deserving of this recognition,” said S. Narayanan, Ph.D., professor and chair of biomedical, industrial, and human factors engineering. “She has made significant contributions to the field of human factors engineering and human-centered innovation in both education and research. Her work spans multiple areas, including visual display design, virtual reality, information visualization, and human-computer interface design. Her interdisciplinary research has been applied in many domains including aviation, health care systems, and the petrochemical industries. She is an inspiration for our students and faculty in the human-centered innovation field.”

Gallimore has received more than $2 million in research for work in such fields as aviation spatial orientation, design of displays for advanced cockpits and robots, and human factors issues in health care. She has presented research findings at national and international conferences and published 16 journal articles, 43 conference papers, and four book chapters. She is frequently called upon to provide expert testimony in the areas of human perception and cognition.

George Huang has been chair of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering since 2006. Under his leadership, the department’s new student enrollment increased from 61 to 99 in three years and the number of B.S. graduates jumped from 49 in 2006 to 60 in 2009. Huang has also established an engineering extension program with universities in Taiwan and India.

Huang leads Wright State’s new Center of Excellence in Micro Air Vehicle Research. Under Huang’s leadership, Wright State developed its first micro air vehicle (MAV). Huang has a five-year project with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and is working with the Dayton Development Coalition to bring Unattended Aerial Vehicles (UAV) companies to the region.

Huang started a fuel cell research program with the AFRL and developed the first Wright State/AFRL joint center for Advanced Power and Energy Conversion. His curriculum revisions include more experimental and computational courses at the undergraduate level.

Huang established an industry leadership course that allows undergraduates to spend three weeks visiting electronics manufacturing firms in Taiwan, China, and India. He attracted the Japanese-based Cradle Company, a computational fluid mechanics firm, to Wright State’s Joshi Research Center, where it contributes to student research and training.

“Dr. Huang certainly deserves this honor for his outstanding contributions to the College of Engineering and Computer Science,” said Bor Jang, Ph.D., dean of the college. “He is an inspiration to our students and faculty for his professional knowledge and international leadership in the MAV field.”

Huang established an industry leadership course that allows undergraduates to spend three weeks visiting electronics manufacturing firms in Taiwan, China, and India.

Huang is an international educator, having received his bachelor’s degree in Taiwan, master’s degree in Canada, and doctorate in England. His career includes seven years with NASA and 10 years with the University of Kentucky. He has authored more than 160 journal and technical articles and attracted more than $1.5 million in research funding for Wright State.

Jennie Gallimore, professor of biomedical, industrial, and human factors engineering, and director of the Ohio Center of Excellence in Human-Centered Innovation.
Marian Kazimierczuk receives Poland’s highest honor for an educator

MARIAN KAZIMIERCZUK, Ph.D., a professor of electrical engineering and one of Wright State University’s most honored faculty members, was recently named a National Professor of Technical Sciences by Poland’s President Lech Kaczynski.

The award is the highest honor a scientist or an educator can receive in Poland, and Kazimierczuk was the only American to receive the recognition at ceremonies in Warsaw at the presidential palace. He was selected for the honor by a committee of Polish educators and scientists on the basis of a lifetime of achievement and international recognition in electrical engineering.

Kazimierczuk, the Robert J. Kegeoris Distinguished Professor of Teaching, has been a faculty member at Wright State for 25 years. In 2004, he received the Trustees’ Award for Faculty Excellence for his sustained excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

His honors from the College of Engineering and Computer Science include three Excellence in Teaching Awards, two Excellence in Research Awards, two Excellence in Professional Service Awards, and an Outstanding Faculty Member honor. He has also received Wright State’s Presidential Award as Outstanding Faculty Member and the Outstanding Teaching Award from the American Society of Engineering Education North-Central Section.

Kazimierczuk is a national expert in the design of power amplifiers and power supplies based upon semiconductor technology, more commonly known as power electronics. His research led to the development of the high-efficiency, low-energy, long-life fluorescent lights. The super capacitor battery he developed keeps exit signs illuminated in buildings, even during power failures. He holds seven patents, has written six books, presented more than 150 conference papers, and published more than 130 journal articles. He has served on some 70 department, college, and university committees at Wright State and is a fellow of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

“Professor Kazimierczuk’s awards and recognition, student-centered teaching, and scholarship are world-class, and this honor from Poland is one of the highest honors an engineer can receive,” said Bor Jang, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Kazimierczuk, who resides in Beavercreek, holds two doctorates and a master’s degree from the Technical University of Warsaw, Poland’s most highly acclaimed technical university.

Donna Miles Curry receives International Education Award

PATRICIA MARTIN, Ph.D., R.N., dean of the Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health, has been named a Woman of Leadership by the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio.

Martin is one of four leaders in the nine-county region who was inducted into the Girl Scout Hall of Fame in Dayton on March 9. Those honored exemplify the spirit of Girl Scouting and were selected on the basis of extraordinary commitment and accomplishment through demonstrated initiative, integrity, and leadership.

Martin joined the nursing faculty at Wright State in 1992 and was named dean in 2000. She has been instrumental in developing new programs to meet the changing needs of nurses. She embraces the latest technologies, such as bringing high-fidelity patient simulators into the nursing curriculum at Wright State, and has increased enrollment opportunities for nursing students through outreach programs and collaborating with Sinclair Community College.

President David Hopkins described Martin as “a dedicated and knowledgeable professional who works tirelessly to improve nursing education, not only locally but on a national level. She is a woman of great wisdom and compassion, and I am proud to have her on my leadership team.”

Martin, a registered nurse for more than 40 years, established the “Cameos of Caring” program in 2001 to honor area nurses. This program has raised more than $300,000 in scholarship funding for Wright State nursing students. She serves on numerous professional, community, and academic committees. Other honors Martin has received include: the Award for Innovations in Nursing from the Ohio League of Nursing, Nurse of the Year by the Ohio Nurses Association District 10, and the Excellence in Nursing Education Administration Award from the Ohio Nurses Association.
Fifth annual Adventure Summit attracts thousands of outdoor enthusiasts

The keynote speaker ran across the Sahara Desert. One of the featured speakers hiked across Canada and the United States from Quebec to Washington. Another is editor of Backpacker magazine, and a third is a Tipp City resident who bicycled last summer to every state in the continental U.S.

The annual event, now in its fifth year, is supported through a partnership between Wright State’s Outdoor Resource Center and Five Rivers MetroParks.

They all shared their stories on March 5 and 6 as part of the Adventure Summit, a celebration of the spirit of outdoor adventure through a multitude of programs and activities. The annual event, now in its fifth year, is supported through a partnership between Wright State’s Outdoor Resource Center and Five Rivers MetroParks.

Charlie Engle, a recovering addict who has become one of the top ultra-distance athletes in the world, was the keynote speaker as part of the Presidential Lecture Series. His accomplishments include being the first runner, along with two partners, to cross the Sahara Desert. His athletic exploits have also taken him to the Gobi Desert in China, Death Valley, the Hawaiian Ironman event, and the Amazon jungle. Other featured speakers were:

- Andrew Skurka, a professional backpacker known for two monumental long-distance hikes—the 6,875-mile Great Western loop through nine western states and the 7,778-mile Sea-to-Sea route from Quebec to Washington. Skurka has hiked 23,000 miles since 2002 and was named “Adventurer of the Year” in 2007 by National Geographic Adventure.
- Jon Dorn, editor-in-chief of Backpacker. Dorn led the magazine to the Ambassador Award, the highest honor possible from the Outdoor Industry Association. The avid outdoorsman lives in Boulder and spends his weekends running in the Rockies.
- Phil Nagle, a Tipp City resident who bicycled 8,000 miles last summer throughout the continental U.S. to raise money in support of research and awareness of blood cancer.

The Adventure Summit also included an exposition of outdoor clubs, retailers, outfitters, and advocacy groups, plus bouldering, kayak, and triathlon competitions. There were also presentations and workshops with 40 presenters on such topics as fly fishing, outdoor ethics, hiking the Alps, wilderness medicine, scuba diving, cave exploring, freestyle kayaking, and living and working in Antarctica.

Some 75 exhibitors and vendors participated in the Adventure Summit to share information about their goods and services.

The annual ARTSGALA, which has raised more than a million dollars for scholarships during its 10-year history, is scheduled for Saturday, April 10. The impressive program showcases student excellence in theatre, dance, motion pictures, music, and visual arts.

The 6:30 p.m. to midnight event in the Creative Arts Center is presented by the College of Liberal Arts. The popular black-tie optional gathering is regarded as one of the area’s premier events, with more than 600 patrons enjoying a variety of entertainment, dining, and silent auction items to help Wright State students. More than 300 students over the last 10 years have received scholarships with money raised from ARTSGALA.

“Everybody wins at this event, because those attending enjoy an entertaining evening featuring the best Wright State has to offer in music, art, theatre, dance, and motion pictures, and the students benefit through funding for scholarships,” said Chuck Taylor, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

From Broadway revues and musical ensembles to live sculpting and painting, ARTSGALA leaves patrons spellbound over the excellence of Wright State’s students. Features this year include:

- A wine tasting of premium quality selections
- Musical selections from The Pajama Game
- Music of legendary composer Burt Bacharach
- Performances by Wright State dance majors
- Soloists accompanied by the Wright State University Chamber Orchestra
- A printmaking exhibition titled Shark’s Ink

A silent auction will offer some 100 items for bidding, including:

- Artwork by Wright State faculty, students, and alumni
- Vacation getaways
- Exceptional bottles of wine
- Elegant designer jewelry
- Special sports-related auction in cigar tent
- Entertainment packages including tickets to Wright State theatre and music presentations

ARTSGALA’s exclusive presenting sponsor is Barnes & Noble at Wright State University. Other major sponsors are the Dayton Daily News, Dayton Public Radio, Gloria and Don Graber, Imagewerx, Morris Home Furnishings, and WHIO-TV.

Wright State faculty and staff may purchase ARTSGALA tickets at a discounted rate of $125 per person. Tickets are available online at www.wright.edu/artsgala or by calling (937) 775-5920. To receive the faculty and staff discount, please use the code WSUrate10 when ordering tickets.
Anita Curry-Jackson receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Anita Curry-Jackson, Ph.D., dean of University College, received a Lifetime Achievement Award on March 22 from the National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter, Region 7. Curry-Jackson has more than 30 years of experience in higher education as a faculty member and administrator, including some 23 years in the Dayton area as a social worker and social work educator.

“GRACEFUL, GENUINE, ADVOCATE, DEDICATED... THESE ARE ALL SOCIAL WORK VALUES PERSONIFIED TO THEIR EXTREME IN DR. ANITA CURRY-JACKSON.”
— Carl Brun, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Social Work

She has been with Wright State since 1987, where her roles with the Department of Social Work have included associate professor, field coordinator, and department chair. Curry-Jackson has served on the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting body for social work undergraduate and graduate education, and is a certified site visitor for the Council’s Commission on Accreditation. She is also a past president of the National Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors.

“Gracious, genuine, advocate, dedicated...these are all social work values personified to their extreme in Dr. Anita Curry-Jackson,” said Carl Brun, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Social Work, in presenting her the honor. “She is a social worker in every role and position she has held, advocating for the needs of clients, students, and the right thing to do. No matter how busy she is or what role she has at the time (professor, advisor, researcher, volunteer, member of the board, department chair, dean) she gives her one full attention, just as a social worker does with every client.”

In addition to her social work duties, Curry-Jackson has previously served as dean of the Lake Campus and as associate provost for university partnerships and assessment.

Greg Mortenson to speak as part of Presidential Lecture Series

The 10th Annual Quest for Community conference

The 10th Annual Quest for Community: A Call to Action conference explores diversity issues in higher education. On Friday, April 9, higher education professionals, students, and community members from across the state will gather to begin conversations regarding race, gender, and class.

The 2010 Quest for Community conference theme is “Innovation through Diversity: Creating Innovative Methods for Teaching Multicultural Competency Across the Curriculum.”

The conference kicks off at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7, in the Student Union Apollo Room, with Presidential Lecture Series speaker Greg Mortenson, co-author of the number-one bestseller Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time.

Frans Johansson, author, entrepreneur, and managing director of Medici Capital Investment, is the keynote speaker on April 9. Johansson’s book, The Medici Effect, takes readers on a fascinating journey to the “Intersection,” a place where ideas from different fields and cultures collide, resulting in an explosion of extraordinary innovations. Translated into 17 different languages, The Medici Effect was named one of the 10 best business books of 2004 by Amazon.com.

Johansson’s accomplished career has taken him from founder of a software company and medical device business to the world of consulting and hedge fund management. He has been widely published on topics ranging from business management to ocean preservation to the science of sport fishing. Visit www.wright.edu/quest to view the complete conference schedule and register to attend.
Wright State researchers finding ways for the disabled to use computers hands-free through “Brainfingers”

Jennifer Border loves to play the Super Mario Brothers game on her computer. “It’s really fun to compete against others on the internet, and it’s exciting to win,” she said.

And she doesn’t even use a keyboard, mouse, or joystick.

Border, who is wheelchair bound with limited use of her hands and arms because of a birth defect, navigates the computer with a specially designed headband tied to a pocket-size computer. She is one of three doctoral students in the Human Factors and Industrial/Organizational Psychology Ph.D. Program at Wright State University.

Border, along with Jehangir Cooper and James Leonard, are working on developing a commercial version of the invention from Brain Actuated Technologies of Yellow Springs.

The headband has sensors that pick up electrical impulses from the forehead and translates this information into computer functions. “Three kinds of electrical signals involving eye movements, brain activity, and muscle tension are picked up by the sensors. The software decodes these signals into virtual fingers or Brainfingers, which trigger mouse and keyboard events that the client learns to manipulate through biofeedback,” explained John Flach, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Wright State Department of Psychology and advisor to the three students.

“Andrew Junker of Brain Actuated Technologies invented this system, termed Brainfingers, and our students are testing this technology through a wide range of applications to help the disabled,” said Flach, the principal investigator on the research.

He added that the Brainfingers system is lightweight and portable since it is powered directly through the USB port of the computer.

The Brainfingers system is now available for the computer gaming industry, and the Wright State students are working with Junker to enhance the capabilities of the software to help the millions of disabled Americans. Their project won the Best Idea for 2009 Award at the National Center for Technology Innovation Conference.

In the research, Border is working on using the Brainfingers system to interface with alternative typing programs, so that it is possible for someone to type by modulating muscle tension at the forehead. Flach said this system has enormous potential to allow people with motor limitations to utilize computers more effectively.

“This system will help disabled individuals who have Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS), multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, or suffer from spinal cord injuries,” said Leonard. He said the Brainfingers project also has social benefits for individuals like Border.

“It’s fun to play Super Mario Brothers,” she said, “because from a social perspective I can participate and not be a bystander. Having Brainfingers sort of equalizes the playing field and it’s especially fun to play well and win the game. It shows that being disabled is not really a disadvantage; in fact it is an advantage because the reaction time is faster than using a keyboard or mouse. When people find out after a game about my condition, they are really shocked and I’m in disbelief over what I can accomplish. You don’t feel disabled when playing a computer game using Brainfingers.”

Two of the three students working on this project are funded through a Federal Interdisciplinary traineeship grant from the National Science Foundation. The NSF grant supports approximately a dozen graduate students from four academic disciplines to work together to study and design devices for people with disabilities to help them overcome obstacles in their lives. Wright State is a national leader in working with the disabled.

Sustainability: Recycling

Recycling is what I and others have called the face of sustainability, i.e., perception is that if you are not doing recycling well, you probably are not serious about sustainability. Therefore, we need to do this well.

The earliest I have been able to trace campus recycling efforts was a late 1980s project by student Jeff Hiles (now instructional web designer at Wright State) under the direction of Environmental Studies faculty member Tim Wood (now an emeritus member of the Biology Department), Interest since then has waxed and waned.

A few years ago it waxed again.

What was then the student Recycling Club (now the Environmental Action Group) was active and moved forward. Not coincidentally, those same student leaders were also in student government and it was a student government sustainability proposal that ultimately led to the university’s larger sustainability initiative. Credit is due to those students who recognized that while recycling and other sustainability-related activities had taken place on campus for years, more was possible. They were strong and effective advocates of change.

More recently, Gina Mathis, in her role as director of custodial services, has brought new staff energy and insight into recycling possibilities. The result? Over the past several years you’ve noticed an increasing array of recycling bins around campus. This was indeed progress and raised awareness. Nevertheless, our recycling rates remained low when compared with many other campuses. Something more was needed.

Ms. Mathis and others in Physical Plant worked with Rumpke Recycling to ratchet up the program, and since September of 2009 you have seen the new green and white recycling containers around campus.

The change is more than cosmetic. Instead of separate containers for individual recyclable components (e.g., glass, plastic, metal, and paper), now all the recyclables are co-mingled, meaning the containers accept all of these recyclable materials in the one container.

There are several indicators of the program’s early success. First, last August, before the program began (but also before students returned to campus), 32,899 pounds of wastes were recycled. In September recycling jumped to 78,138 pounds and in October it rose again to 88,853 pounds. That monthly increase at the beginning of the program was impressive, especially when compared with a 10-week period between January and March of last year when a total of 82,000 pounds was collected.

But that’s not the only good news. We are currently competing in RecycleMania, a nationwide recycling competition among college and university campuses. We recently completed week three in this 10-week competition. For perspective, at the end of last year’s competition, Wright State ranked 168 out of 205 schools with cumulative recycling at a rate of 17.54%. Not good. In week three this year we are now ranked 94 nationally out of 234 colleges and universities with cumulative recycling at 29.16%. This is a major improvement, particularly in the first year of our new program. But of course we can do even better and that depends on the combined efforts of all of us.

Don’t be so enthusiastic in your effort that you throw non-recyclable wastes into the recyclable containers. If you do, the whole container risks becoming “contaminated,” and thus considered trash with all its contents, non-recyclables AND recyclables alike, being thrown away. Lesson: put only recyclables in the recycle containers.

What more can we do on campus? At the very least, there needs to be more recycling containers both indoors and especially outdoors near parking lots and building entrances—and expanded education to ensure that people know the dos and don’ts of recycling.

With the recent growth of the current recycling program and possibility for even more improvements in the future, we can feel increasingly good about this aspect of sustainability.
In Memory of Marie Clemons

Marie Clemons, coordinator of event services, passed away on February 8.

“Marie was the person who served as our ‘registrars’ for many of the workshops and conferences hosted by the campus community,” said Terri Miles, director of event services. “Marie was the person who provided that all-important first impression of Wright State to our guests. Through this role, she made many new friends and cherished all of them, and was always happy to meet her guests when they arrived on campus.”

“To say that Marie was a pleasure to work with is an understatement. She made you feel like your event was the most important thing happening and you were the easiest client ever, both of which I know were not true,” recalled Carolyn Starch, an administrative support coordinator in the Department of Social Work. “She made my job so much easier because of her very capable skills at what she did. I loved working with her and will always consider her a dear friend.”

Clemons was a retired Navy veteran of the Gulf War. She was a member of St. Paul’s Catholic Church of Yellow Springs.

She is survived by her husband, Sean Clemons; four children, Lorenzo Mantzanglo, Lance Mantzanglo, Cameron Barberi, and Dominic Clemons; six siblings, and several nieces and nephews.

In Memory of Bill Marshak

William “Bill” Marshak, an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology since 1987, passed away on November 6, 2009.

“Bill will be sorely missed by students, colleagues, and friends,” said John Flach, chair of the Department of Psychology. “Bill contributed research methods and statistics to psychology students at Wright State for over 20 years. He was a strong advocate for quantitative rigor in the social sciences. Outside the university, Bill was a chief scientist for the Air Force Research Laboratory and later for Sytronics. He was also a leader of the local chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, where he was recently elected president.”

Marshak received a bachelor’s degree from Lawrence University in 1970 and a master’s degree from the University of Miami in 1972. He then received a master’s degree from the University of North Dakota in 1974 and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1980. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force from 1971 until 1993, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Marshak was also an instructor at the United States Air Force Academy in 1976 and assistant professor from 1977 to 1985. He was chief scientist at H.G. Armstrong Aerospace Medical Lab from 1986 until 1991 and chief scientist at Sytronics, Inc., in Dayton, from 1994 until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Sha- ron; four sons; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions in honor of Bill Marshak may be designated to the Department of Psychology Scholarship Fund, Wright State University Foundation.

In Memory of Matt Liddy

Matt Liddy, former Wright State University swimming coach and assistant athletics director, passed away on January 25.

During his 16-year coaching career, the Raiders won seven conference titles on the men’s side, including Horizon League crowns in each of Liddy’s final three seasons, and nine on the women’s side, including three straight on two separate occasions. Liddy recorded a combined 228 dual meet wins and developed 170 individual conference champions and 65 conference relay championship teams.

He was named the league’s Coach of the Year 11 times. In the 14 years that Wright State was part of a conference under Liddy, the women’s team never finished lower than second and the men never lower than third.

Liddy served his last four years at Wright State as assistant athletics director.

In 2007, Liddy was inducted into the Al and Mary Schwarz Wright State Athletic Hall of Fame.

A outstanding swimming himself at Chaminade-Julienne High School, the four-time YMCA national qualifier earned his bachelor’s degree in education from Wright State in 1985.

Liddy was the head coach for the Dayton Northwest YMCA before coming back to the Raiders as an assistant coach. While an assistant under Hall of Fame coach Jeff Cavana, Liddy helped guide the Raiders to five Top Ten finishes in NCAA Division II in a three-year span.

Liddy is survived by his wife, Lisa, and his three children, Jeremy, Kayleigh, and Tyler.

In Memory of Pat Caprio

Pasquale “Pat” Caprio passed away on January 10. Caprio was an academic advisor in University College. He worked at Wright State University for over 25 years.

According to Anita Curry-Jackson, dean of University College, Caprio was a highly regarded staff member. He was an academic advisor from 1984 to 2010, and was assistant director of testing from 1984 to 1992. “Over his 25-year tenure at Wright State University, Pat was a wonderful academic advisor and student mentor as well as a wonderful colleague. He will be missed,” said Curry-Jackson.

“Pat provided academic advice and good counsel to thousands of our students over the years,” said John Blair, distinguished professor of economics.

Caprio was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus of St. Leonard’s Council where he was a member of the singing Knights.

Caprio is survived by his wife of 30 years, Terry; two children, Louis and many other family members and friends.

In Memory of Elizabeth Dixon

Elizabeth Dixon, the founding director of the Wright State University Center, passed away in November 2009.

“A great friend to the university,” Mrs. Dixon was one of our early pio- neers,” said President David Hopkins. “We have a scholarship in her name, and the Upper Hearth Lounge was renamed in her honor. An accomplished leader, she was a mentor to many and a model to all of us. At retirement, Wright State University was never far from her thoughts. She will be missed. However, her impact on Wright State lives on through the work of the many people she influenced.”

Dixon served as director of the University Center, now known as the Student Union, from 1968 to 1981. Dixon was taking night courses at Wright State after her day job as dean of women at Wilmington College when she was hired. The University Center was under construction at the time. “At my first visit, I was given a hard hat and a pair of boots,” Dixon recalled during a visit to campus in 2002. At first, her office was in whatever space was available in Allyn Hall. Later, her office looked out into a garden area, a perk that then-President Brage Golding would tease her about.

“Dr. Golding would come by and say, ‘I don’t have a private garden like this. I have a parking lot!’” said Dixon.

During the 13 years she served as director, Dixon played a central role in the development of services available to Wright State students and the university community.

“I doubt that Elizabeth Dixon considered herself to be a ‘trailblazer’ in her role as director of the University Center, but she really was. Very few women served in senior leadership roles in the college union profession during her tenure at Wright State, and she was known among her peers, faculty, and administrators alike as a woman of strength and intelligence,” said Kathy Morris, associate vice president for student affairs. Morris followed in Dixon’s footsteps and served as director of the Student Union from 1992 to 1996.

Morris added, “She cared deeply about students and their success, involving them in an advisory capacity, and encouraging their use of the Center to expand community on the fledging campus. I feel so very fortunate to have had the opportunity to know her personally, and to have been a part of the legacy she created at this institution.”

Dixon spent the remainder of her life in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and the town of Wellfleet, where she enjoyed her years of retirement. Her various travels during her lifetime took her around the world. One of her most famous U.S. trips was her whitewater rafting adventure down the Colorado River in her 70s.

Dixon is survived by her two daughters, Alice Dixon and Ellen Cavanaugh; her three grandsons, Zack Dixon, Jonah Cavanaugh, and Shay Cavanaugh; and great-granddaughter Ella Mae Dixon.

In Memory of Paul Magill

Paul Magill, a conductor, music director, and pioneer of the Wright State University Music Department, passed away on February 18.

Magill became the first music fac- ulty member of the Wright State University, when the Department of Music was created in 1964. During his 24-year tenure, he was an associate professor and music director of choral stud- ies, director of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, the university Chamber Singers, and the Men’s Chorus. He was also music director for the musicals presented by Wright State’s theater department.

Magill directed several community choirs, including the Dayton Phil- harmonic Orchestra Chorus, the Dayton Opera Chorus, the Dayton Rotary Boys Choir, and the Miami Valley Nurses Chorus. A former tenor soloist at Grace United Methodist Church and West- minister Presbyterian Church, he was director of music at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church for 22 years.

Highlights of Magill’s career include conducting a performance of Brahms A German Requiem with soprano Kathy Kileen Burt, baritone Andrew White, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and members of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra (DPO) at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church; and conducting the DPO in the premiere of Dave Brubeck’s “Light in the Garden” with the DPO’s piano, baritone Joseph Albrecht, and the DPO and Wright State choirs at Memorial Hall. He also performed as tenor soloist with the DPO several times.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Magill was educated at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, The University of Wisconsin, and Wright State University. His education was interrupted by service to his country in Korea.

After beginning his teaching career in Cincinnati, he moved to Dayton in 1967, where he taught music in Kettering Schools for seven years. He moved to Oakwood in 1958 and resided there for 40 years. During his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, and singing and traveling with the Cincinnati International Touring Chorus. He also volunteered for Miami Valley Hospital, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, and Meals on Wheels.

Magill will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his impeccable musicianship, and his engaging sense of humor. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Margaret; four children; and 11 grandchildren.

In Memory of Dick Bethke

Richard “Dick” Bethke passed away on February 15. He spent more than 35 years as a professor and chair in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Wright State University, where Bethke graduated with a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Wis- consin. Bethke is survived by his wife Dede; sons, Alan and Steven; and five grandchildren.
Donna Miles Curry, nursing and health, was elected to the position of treasurer in the First National Family Nursing Association election.

Mary Lynd, nursing and health, was appointed as a consultant for the 2010 National League for Nursing Center of Excellence Program cycle.

Beth Sorensen, nursing and health, was selected to the pool of peer reviewers for Cycle 3 of the athletics certification program of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Dan Krane, biological sciences, was lead author on the headline letter “Time for DNA Disclosure,” in the December 18, 2009, issue of Science magazine. The letter called on the FBI to release the data it has collected in its National DNA Index System. Volker Bahn, biological sciences, Travis Dook, computer scientist, and Thaddeus Tarpey, mathematics and statistics, were co-authors.


Anne Stalter, nursing and health, will present “Estimating baseline validity and reliability of a body mass index screening survey” at the Midwest Nursing Research Society conference, Nursing Research: Bench to Bedside, to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, in April 2010. Perla Ilagan and nursing student Rosemary Estavast will present the poster “A model of HIV disclosure: Implications for bench-bedside-community advanced nursing practice” at the conference.


Julia Reichert, theatre arts and motion pictures, and Wright State alumnus Steven Bogner’s documentary A Lion in the House was voted in Awards Daily Forums as one of the five best documentaries of the decade. The other four documentaries were directed by Ric Burns, David Attenborough, Martin Scorsese, and Spike Lee.