

Community

The Magazine of Wright State University

SPRING 1999

VOLUME 4 NO. 2



WSU Campus Comes of Age
New Places, New Spaces

Wright State University has a new look, from the Wright flyer logo at the university's entrance to the magnificent green space and walkways between the buildings; from the Turning Points sculpture in front of the University Hall to the modular resident halls with each room connected to the campus computer network and internet.

While the new look reflects an innovative spirit, the tradition of academic excellence continues as evidenced by the numerous awards, honors, and gifts reflected in this spring 1999 issue.

Graduating excellent students and providing expertise to the community is nicely illustrated by the success of our accountancy program in graduating top scorers in the state CPA exam, our teacher education program in meeting new state mandates for licensure, and our biology program in helping to restore the region's wetlands. These programs, and others, continue to make us a vital part of our region and the world's ecosystem.



Kim Goldenberg

Kim Goldenberg, President
Wright State University

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE

A SILVER CELEBRATION—25 YEARS OF GREAT THEATRE!



October 14–24, 1999

You Can't Take It With You

November 11–28, 1999

The Phantom

January 20–30, 2000

A Streetcar Named Desire

February 17–27, 2000

Romeo & Juliet
America: 2000

May 11–28, 2000

A CHORUS LINE

March 10–12, 2000

WSU Dance Ensemble in Concert

Community

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SPRING 1999

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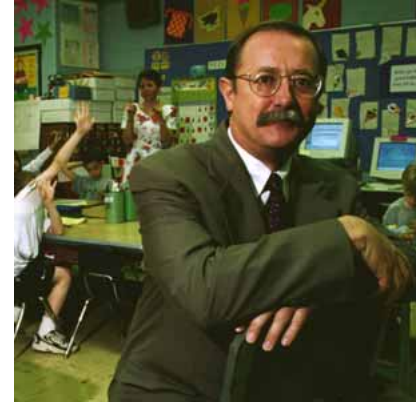
Associate professor of sociology James Steinberg reflects on the social responses of the Y2K bug.

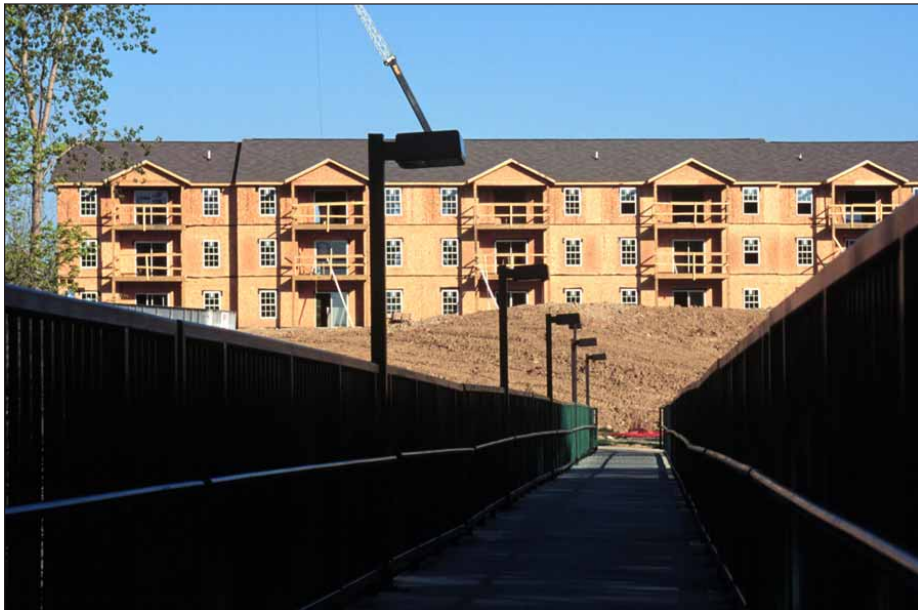
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Raising the Roof

Wright State University raised the roof on two new modular three-story residence halls in April. This was phase three of the College Park apartment buildings construction. Both buildings have 15 apartments designated for upper-class students. College Park is the most popular housing on campus—all 116 spaces in the new building were filled on the first day of a lottery selection process. Each apartment is a four-bedroom, two-bath suite, with its own washer and dryer. Like all other on-campus housing at Wright State, each bedroom has a hook-up to the campus computer network. For more information about housing at Wright State, call Dan Bertson, director of residence services, at 775-4177.

Model UN Wins Again

The Wright State University Model United Nations Team returned from their 20th competition in New York with two Distinguished Delegation Awards, placing it among the top 10 percent of schools receiving recognition for their performance at the 1999 conference.

“This was our first attempt representing more than one country,” says Brice Thomas, who, with Donna M. Schlagheck, professor of political science, advised the Wright State team in its representation of Brazil and Chile. “Fewer than six of the 200 colleges and universities sending teams to the competition had teams large enough to represent more than one country.”

The team, consisting of 41 members, was judged on its diplomatic and negotiating skills, overall knowledge of assigned topics, ability to bring diverse viewpoints together, and ability to function in a team environment.

United Nations secretary, General Kofi Annan, was the keynote speaker at the event, the largest on record, with 2,450 students participating.

Music Ensembles Selected for OMEA

Four Department of Music ensembles were selected to perform at the 1999 Annual Conference of the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) in Cincinnati last February. In conjunction with this conference, the OMEA also co-hosted the regional conference of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) with ensembles from eight states competing for the opportunity to perform.

“To have four WSU ensembles selected to perform from the almost 400 ensembles that submitted audition tapes was a great honor for us,” says Herb Dregalla, chair, Department of Music.

The ensembles were the Women’s Choral (Hank Dahlman, conductor), the Men’s Chorale, (James Tipps, conductor), the Saxophone Quartet (Shelley Jagow, conductor), and the Chamber Orchestra, (Jackson Leung, conductor).



WSU Enters Passing Lane of Information Highway

Because of its advanced network infrastructure and research capabilities, WSU is among approximately 150 universities to date selected for membership in Internet2, a collaboration between research universities, industry, and government. Internet2 intends to give university researchers a faster, less-crowded alternative to the current model as well as act as a high-tech test lab for future Internet technologies.

“Wright State is eager to join with Internet2 university members and government and industry partners to accelerate the next stage of Internet development,” says President Kim Goldenberg. “Together we can support educational priorities and national research efforts that require advanced network capabilities.”

First conceived in 1996, the intent of Internet2 is not to replace the current Internet, but to give universities another way to develop advanced Internet technologies. Because of the limited space and bandwidth of the commercial Internet, researchers cannot adequately conduct experiments on such technologies.

For example, Internet2 will allow distance learning instructors to use high-quality audio and video illustrations in their courses and post those materials onto a course Web site. Students can see the illustrations whether they are using a 28.8 modem or a multi-mbps connection. Live video and audio can be captured and converted to a format that can then be “broadcast” to users with standard Windows software and a Netscape browser plug-in.

Another difference with Internet2 is speed. The network will transfer information at a minimum of 150 megabits per second. That compares with a home computer modem running at 56,000 bits per second.

While Internet2 won’t provide a link to the World Wide Web or an e-mail account, its developments will eventually find their way into nearly every computer network, including the Internet.

AROUND CAMPUS

Mazey Appointed Dean

Mary Ellen Mazey was appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts after serving six months as the interim dean.

“Dr. Mazey has the overwhelming support of the faculty, staff, and students,” says WSU President Kim Goldenberg. “She possesses a wealth of experience, providing students with outstanding learning opportunities on campus and in the community.”



Mary Ellen Mazey

At Wright State, Mazey was the founding director of the Center for Urban and Public Affairs and the chair of the Department of Urban Affairs and Geography.

She has been a professor at Wright State since 1979 and was named Distinguished Professor of Service from 1993 to 1996. Her published scholarship focuses on women’s studies, economic development, regional cooperation, and facilitative leadership.

Faculty Honors



Ramana V. Grandhi, distinguished professor, mechanical and materials engineering, named a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers International.



James Sayer, professor, communication, received the Trustees’ Award for Faculty Excellence. The award will be presented during the June 12 commencement ceremonies.



Mitch Wolff, assistant professor, mechanical and material engineering, received the 1999 Ralph R. Teeter Educational Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers.

“Keeper of the Dream”—by orator actor Jim Lucas, part of WSU’s 1999 Martin Luther King Celebration. (Jan. 15)

Swing Dance—featuring Jump N Jive Swingtet. (Feb. 13)

Women’s Studies Lecture Series—Dr. Simona Sharoni, professor, American University; “Gendering Conflict and Peace in Northern Ireland and the Middle East.” (Mar. 4)

Contemporary Issues in Human Resources Lecture—featuring Jim Kissinger, vice president, Human Resources, Sprint Corporation. (Mar. 11)

Art Auction—advanced art students and faculty donated works which raised over \$1400 to augment costs associated with senior art show. (Apr. 9)

Neil O’Shea—one-man performance of Irish writings, 1998-99 Artist Series. (Apr. 9)

Honors Dialogue—John Morrisette, Ph.D., major, U.S. Army, retired; “The Complexity of the Balkans.” (Apr. 9)

15th Annual International Friendship Affair—cultural displays, ethnic dances, costume and flag parade, and food. (Apr. 10)

Ensemble Kalinda—Caribbean and Latin American music, 1998-99 Artist Series. (Apr. 15)

Take Our Daughters to Work—over 150 girls attended lectures and workshops with the theme “The Future Is Me.” (Apr. 22)

WSU Annual Peace Fund Lecture—Fr. Roy Bourgeois spoke about the U.S. Army School of the Americas. (Apr. 23)

AIDS Activist Rae Lewis-Thornton—spoke about the common myths and stereotypes surrounding AIDS. (May 5)



Art Auction

Take Our Daughters to Work



Ensemble Kalinda



15th Annual International Friendship Affair



Fr. Roy Bourgeois

School of Medicine Honored

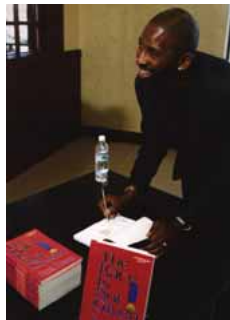
Wright State University's School of Medicine received one of the John G. Templeton Spirituality and Medicine Awards for Psychiatric Residency Training Programs on April 15. This was one of seven national awards distributed for the incorporation of spirituality and medicine and included a \$15,000 prize from the National Institute for Healthcare Research.

David M. Rube, Wright State's associate director of child and adolescent psychiatry, accepted the award in Washington. Rube is also the psychiatry director at Children's Medical Center.

Faculty Publish Books

Several Wright State faculty had books of general interest published last year.

Frank Dobson, assistant professor of English, signed copies of his novel, *The Race Is Not Given*, at Barnes and Nobles Bookstore last May. Published by Sterling House, the book is about the young, gifted, and black Stanford Thomas, whose promising future comes to an abrupt halt when he is diagnosed with incurable cancer. Not only must he confront his own mortality, Thomas also struggles to give meaning to his life, and therefore his death.



Frank Dobson

Others faculty books included:

- **Carl Becker** (professor emeritus of history)—*Home and Away: The Rise and Fall of Professional Football on the Banks of Ohio*
- **David Garrison** (professor of Spanish and Portuguese)—*Inside the Sound of Rain*
- **Jim Guthrie** (associate professor of English)—*Emily Dickinson's Vision*
- **Dave Barr** (professor of religion)—*Tales of the End*
- **Paul Griffin** (associate professor of religion; director, African and African American Studies)—*Seeds of Racism in the Soul of America*

Wright Tapped for Honorary Doctorate

The Wright State University Board of Trustees voted to confer the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on G. Wilkinson Wright, grandnephew of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Since 1976, Wright State has awarded honorary degrees to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding individual contributions for service. This year Wright will receive the honor not only for his efforts in preserving Dayton's aviation heritage, but also for his commitment to Wright State University.

Wright was instrumental in the selection of Wright State University as the home of the Wright Brothers Collection, the world's most complete repository of original documents, memorabilia, and personal photographs from the Wright Brothers. He is a founder and past president of the Wright State University Friends of the Library and former member of the Wright State University Foundation.



Wilkinson Wright

Wright will receive his degree at the June 12 Wright State commencement ceremony.

New VP of Advancement

Marcia Muller has been appointed WSU's vice president for advancement, effective July 19. Muller comes to Wright State from New Mexico State University, where she has served as vice president for University Advancement since 1990. In that position she has tripled the receipt of major gifts each year. Among her duties at Wright State will be serving as chief executive officer for the WSU Foundation.

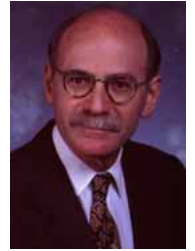


Marcia Muller

Muller was assistant vice president for development at the University of Miami (Florida) from 1985–89. While there she played an instrumental role in a five-year capital campaign that was the second largest at that time, netting \$517 million in commitments and earning a national achievement award.

Part Appointed Dean

Howard M. Part, M.D., was named dean of the WSU School of Medicine, effective May 6. Part had been acting dean of the medical school since April 1998, replacing Kim Goldenberg, M.D., who left to take the helm as WSU's president.



Howard M. Part

Part's affiliation with Wright State dates to 1986, when he joined the medical school's voluntary faculty. He is the first dean of medicine at Wright State to come from the ranks of the voluntary faculty. More than 1,250 community physicians participate in WSU's voluntary faculty.

After joining the medical school's fully affiliated faculty in 1988, Part held a succession of leadership positions: residency program director at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Center, vice chair for medical education, as well as a term as the department's chair. From 1995–98, Part was associate dean for faculty and clinical affairs in the School of Medicine.

"I'm proud of my experience with Wright State's voluntary faculty," Part says. "As the School of Medicine celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, it's important to remember the instrumental role that our community's physicians played in starting the medical school and shaping its curriculum."

Nursing Program Celebrates 25 Years

Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health presented an all-day conference for nursing professionals on May 12, with nationally-known speaker, author, and nursing consultant Melodie Chenevert. Following the conference, nursing professionals and the public were invited to tour the college's facilities in Wright State's newest building, University Hall, and to celebrate a quarter century of nursing at Wright State.

Chenevert's presentation theme, "Over the Rainbow," was designed to help nurses prepare for the 21st century. She covered topics such as the fundamentals of strategic planning, threats and opportunities facing nurses, and the difference between leadership and management.

New Division Created by Major Gift

Wright State University has received a gift from Oscar Boonshoft to endow a chair in Health Systems Management, a new division within the Department of Community Health in the WSU School of Medicine.

The goal of Health Systems Management will be to promote high quality and efficient health care for the whole population.

"Mr. Boonshoft's generosity will benefit the entire region, and his vision may well become a national model," says Kim Goldenberg, president, Wright State University.

The Need Is Greater Than Ever!

Greetings Alumni,

Watch Your Mail! The Annual Fund will be asking for support from alumni with a special mailing scheduled to go out the beginning of June. Why does Wright State need private gifts from alumni? Only 43 percent of Wright State's budget is funded by the state of Ohio. Private support is crucial in bridging the gap between tuition and the actual cost of an education, providing much needed academic program support and student scholarships. For the first time ever in the history of Wright State, over 10,000 students received some form of financial aid for the 1998-99 year, according to David Darr, director of Financial Aid.

Our alumni have been very generous in the past and to date the Annual Fund has received gifts and pledges from 2,651 alumni totaling \$244,612. Our goal is to raise \$350,000 by June 30 (the end of the fiscal year).

Please consider making an Annual Fund gift. Your gift will enrich the lives of our students while adding to the strength of your own WSU degree.

For more information or to make your gift today, call the Annual Fund office at (937) 775-4022. Thank you for supporting your alma mater!

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Corporate Appeal

The 1999 Corporate Appeal began April 30 with a kick-off luncheon at the Dayton Convention Center. This year's appeal comprises 100 volunteers seeking gifts from 500 area businesses and corporations. At the luncheon, volunteers were briefed and provided with information regarding Wright State, and prospective donors were assigned to them for personal solicitation.

Unrestricted gifts raised through the Corporate Appeal will be used to support prioritized needs that advance the university's mission. If desired, donors may designate their gifts to a program area (i.e., academic departments or scholarship funds). Gifts solicited can be expended annually or used to establish or augment endowed funds.

This year's Corporate Appeal is chaired by Stephen D. Williams, vice president of Finance and Administration for LJB Engineers & Architects. For more information, contact Susan Smith at 775-2945.

Engineering Scholarship for Women

An alumnus of the College of Engineering and Computer Science has established a scholarship designed to attract women to the university's program. Michael A. Di Flora, senior vice president of product/manufacturing engineering for the Tecumseh Products Company, endowed the scholarship in memory of his mother.

The four-year full tuition Virginia Arlene Di Flora Memorial Scholarship will help attract talented women to the field of engineering. The annual recipient will be an incoming student who graduates in the top 20 percent of her high school class and maintains a 3.0 overall grade point average at Wright State University. Eventually the endowment will support four students each year.

Funds for Student Community Service

The Physician Charitable Trust Fund has generously given \$50,000 to establish the Student Community Service Grant Fund for the Wright State University School of Medicine. The Student Community Service Grant fund will become an endowed fund at the WSU Foundation, and will be used to provide resources for valuable community service experience for Wright State medical students. A committee of physician members of the Academy of Medicine will choose projects that demonstrate the potential to significantly impact the health and well being of individuals in the community.

Kettering Gift

The Kettering Family Fund has donated \$500,000 to the School of Medicine to launch innovative projects in biomedical research. The Kettering gift will be used for seed grants to develop new lines of research through the Medical Innovations grant program at Wright State.

Grants were awarded to six principal investigators for the following research projects:

- Michael Baumann, M.D., professor of medicine and associate chief of staff for research and development at the Dayton VA Medical Center, for the development of a new human cell line that can be reproduced for research and drug development purposes;
- Jay Dean, Ph.D., associate professor of physiology and biophysics, for a study of high-pressure oxygen toxicity on cells in the central nervous system;
- Robert Fyffe, Ph.D., professor of anatomy, for a study of chloride transport in the brain;
- Michael Leffak, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, for a study of DNA elements in human chromosome replication;
- Marianna Morris, Ph.D., professor and chair of pharmacology and toxicology, for a study of neural functions involved in blood pressure regulation; and
- Roger Siervogel, Ph.D., Fels professor of community health and pediatrics, for a study of the genetic epidemiology of risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

In 1974 the Kettering family contributed \$1 million to help found Wright State University School of Medicine. In 1996 the Kettering family donated another \$1 million to endow a scholarship fund for WSU medical students who make a commitment to treat geriatric patients in the Miami Valley.

NEW PLACES,



▲ **Turning Points**—a sculpture by renowned international sculptor David Black, is located on the plaza next to the university's newest building, University Hall. Ohio law requires that all state capital projects set aside 1 percent of the project's cost to fund an accompanying work of art.

▶ **Students enjoy the new paved path** running along Colonel Glenn Hwy., connecting the core campus to the Nutter Center. The pathway was part of efforts to more clearly define the front edge of the campus. One existing identifier, the WSU Woods, was in jeopardy due to erosion caused by construction across the highway. To help ease this problem, a storm water retention basin was built in conjunction with intramural fields and raised islands of native grasses.



By *Connie Steele*

NEW SPACES

The Wright State Campus Comes of Age

When Wright State was founded over 30 years ago to meet the area's need for a public university, it was impossible to predict how fast Ohio's newest public university would grow. Indeed, campus planners found themselves scurrying to keep up with the needs of an exploding student population that went from 5,700 when Wright State was founded in 1967 to over 17,000 in 1987. The result was a piecemeal approach to development and a fragmented campus comprised of an incoherent mix of buildings, walkways, and parking lots.

"Construction tended to be reactive in nature," says Vicky Davidson, assistant vice president, Facilities Planning and Management. "Improvements came on a case by case basis—program by program, building by building, parking lot by parking lot. The campus was not regarded as a whole."

As enrollment stabilized in the early nineties, university officials saw a chance to look at a more planned approach to campus construction, one that would build on the inherent strengths of the campus and reflect Wright State's place as a modern progressive institution of higher education.

"It was time to step back and take a look at how we could tie all construction together to bring some cohesion to the campus," says Davidson.

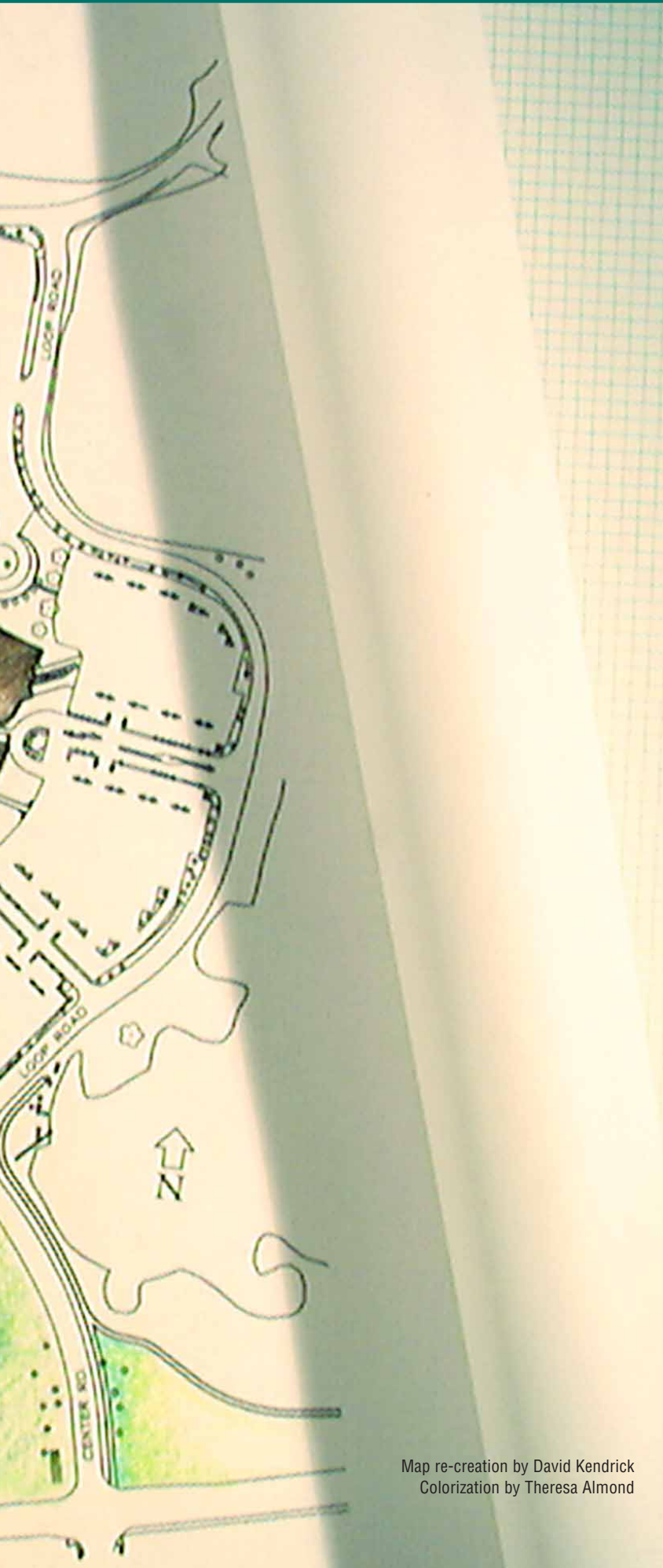
In 1995, campus planners undertook an in-depth "state of the campus" study, assessing the character, condition, and maintenance requirements of the university's facilities, layout, and landscaping. This assessment would provide a strong foundation from which to proceed in writing the master plan.

◀ **Campus planners** revealed the need to establish a stronger and more consistent exterior sign system. This new sign is located at Colonel Glenn Hwy. and Center Road.



◀ **University Hall**, WSU's newest building and home of the College of Nursing and Health.





Map re-creation by David Kendrick
Colorization by Theresa Almond



NEW PLACES, NEW SPACES

Findings from the assessment revealed:

Current Strengths

- The Quad—a strong center of campus, provides a place for ceremony and everyday gathering
- Existing buildings—clean, consistent architectural style befitting a modern, progressive institution of higher learning
- The WSU Woods—an ecological, educational, and aesthetic resource matched at few other similar institutions
- Accessibility—WSU is noted nationally for a campus open to people with all manner of physical abilities

Needed Improvements

- Stronger identification of the university's main entrances
- Pedestrian and vehicular circulation
- Parking—including paths from parking areas to campus core
- Spatial organization and integration of older and newer parts of campus

The Campus Master Plan

In 1996, a master plan was developed by the landscape architect firm of Van Yahres Associates, laying the ground work for improved campus aesthetics, parking, recreation space, and pedestrian and vehicle traffic patterns.

Approved by the WSU Board of Trustees in spring of 1996, the master plan is a \$14 million project, funded over an eight-year period from state capital appropriations:

Phase One—completed in 1997 with the expansion of the west parking lot and creation of a connecting road leading to Meijer, a major shopping resource for WSU students.

Phases Two and Three (see colored areas of map)—completed in spring 1999, centered on improving pedestrian access to the core campus, creating more green and recreational space, and establishing more clearly defined edges of campus, especially along Colonel Glenn Hwy.

Phase Four—starting in 2000, involves constructing a brick entrance wall on University Boulevard. Other improvements slated for the Colonel Glenn Highway/University Boulevard entrance will enhance the intersection's identity as the university's main entrance. Still to be decided is the fate of the Bell Tower, which, if left in place, would compete with the new signage there. Another brick entrance wall was built for the Center Road entrance last fall to provide a consistent, collegiate treatment of the university's two major entrances.

Further out still are several other projects, such as rerouting University Boulevard around the front of the Campus Ministry Center to channel vehicular traffic away from pedestrian traffic and parking.

“The Master Plan is a work in progress,” explains Davidson. “The beauty of the plan is that it provides for a coherent and consistent approach for future development. Not only will this reflect the university’s academic excellence, but incorporating functional efficiency to campus development will save money in the long run and protect the huge capital investment necessary to run a university of this size. The main goal of the master planning effort is to create a distinctive, efficient, beautiful campus now and for future generations.”

A bird’s eye view of an 11-acre circle of walkways and green space connecting the Russ Engineering Center (lower left) and Student Union to the Quad and the interior of campus.



What used to be a parking lot is now a plaza that provides ideal space for student gatherings. The former hallway connecting Hamilton Hall and the Student Union was removed to ease access from the parking areas to the core campus.



State-of-the-art computer labs in University Hall.



WSU's Accountancy Program

By John Bennett

ADDING UP SUCCESS

In 1997 and 1998, WSU accountancy graduates were the top scorers on the state of Ohio's CPA exam. Twice, WSU accountancy students have won the Institute of Management Accountants' national student case competition, the only school to do so. Year after year, graduates are snapped up by the Big Five accounting firms, major corporations, and the federal government.

So, what is it about WSU's accountancy program that produces such results? Susan Lightle, associate professor of accountancy, cites the combined efforts of the department's students and faculty.

"I think we have a particularly hardworking group of students," Lightle says. Many students combine their class schedules with full-time jobs and family responsibilities.

Lightle credits the faculty with not only being effective teachers, but with helping the students arrange internships, organize community service projects, develop leadership skills, and network with potential employers.

"We have a reputation for being good teachers who care about the students, but who do not let up on the rigor in the classroom," Lightle says.

WSU accountancy interns are also standouts, with companies giving them increasingly more important assignments, according to Maggie Houston, an accountancy lecturer.

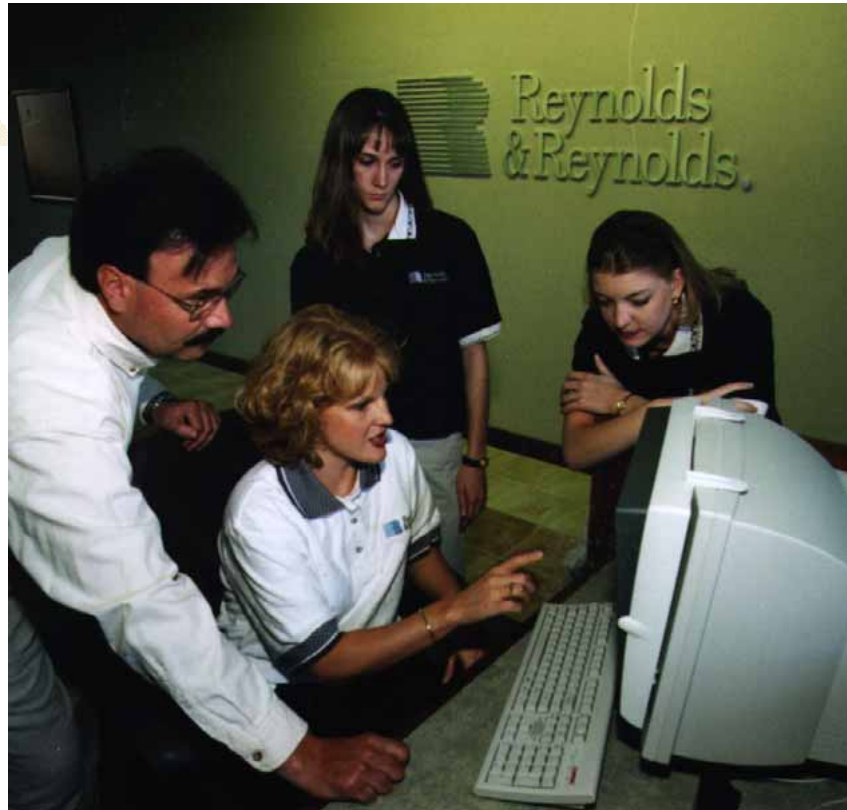
Along with the Office of Career Services, Houston arranges internships and co-op opportunities for accountancy majors.

From a small bistro and pub that needed to establish an accounting and inventory management system, to companies such as Lion Apparel, Gloria Jean's, IAMS, and Procter & Gamble Co., students are converting their internships into full-time employment. Houston says internship experience allows a new college graduate to "start as a seasoned employee."

The Reynolds and Reynolds Company, Inc., hires WSU students as part-time employees, rather than interns. Four students—each working about 20 hours per week—have filled the equivalent of two full-time positions in the company's Business Systems Division. The students help with plant budget preparations, cost accounting functions, and monthly closings.

"We're asking them to help prepare budgets for a plant that might do \$30 million in sales," says Dan Beachy, cost accounting supervisor in Reynolds' Business Systems Division. "They gain very practical work experience."

Students are asked to juggle their classes, jobs, and other obligations, but Beachy believes the WSU students he hires are up to the task.



▲ Dan Beachy, cost accounting supervisor in Reynolds and Reynolds' Business System Division, confers with WSU accounting students/employees (L-R) Rebecca Spencer, Michelle Smith, and Jessica Ahrens.

"I feel we can get a very sharp individual that can show the maturity we're looking for," Beachy says.

New programs for accounting majors are underway that reflect current trends in the profession. The Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.) program prepares students for a new Ohio law requiring those taking the CPA exam beginning in May 2000 to complete 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours. Accountancy majors also may minor in management information systems and computer information technology, a combination Lightle believes will make them "very marketable."

"Teaching is our primary mission, and our department is exceptionally good at staying in touch with the business community," Lightle says. "We teach our students what it means to be a business professional." ■

By Anita Richwine

FACING THE CHALLENGE

The rules have changed. In response to new state mandates for Ohio's teachers, Wright State, along with other Ohio colleges of education, is undergoing a major paradigm shift in how to prepare teachers to teach. **How complex is this task?**

No more complicated than overhauling a 747 engine at 30,000 feet without landing," says Gregory R. Bernhardt, dean of Wright State University's College of Education and Human Services.

Such streaks of humor are welcome as he and his academic team have worked to transform WSU's teacher education programs so that graduates can meet new, tougher licensure standards adopted by the Ohio Department of Education.

Under the new licensure program, teachers will be evaluated on how well their students learn, a major difference in teacher preparation, according to Etta R. Hollins, associate dean in WSU's College of Education and Human Services.

"What we're seeing with these new standards is a move toward performance-based teacher preparation," she says "Teachers must demonstrate the ability to have a positive impact on student learning in the classroom in order to be certified, or licensed, as it will be called now."

State proficiency tests and an array of assessment instruments, some still under development, will be used to determine student progress.

A New Way of Doing Business

The huge overhauling referred to by Bernhardt focuses on organizing all teacher preparation classes to align with the thrust of the licensure requirements. Beginning September 2002, the State of Ohio will no longer issue teaching certificates. Until that

time, WSU will offer both the existing programs and the new licensure programs.

"This has meant a very, very different way of doing business," says Burga Jung, chair of the Department of Teacher Education. The new WSU programs have been approved by the Ohio Department of Education and are waiting for the first students registering for early childhood classes in the fall of 2000.

.....

"...positive student achievement. That's what every single teacher values the most."

Burga Jung, chair
Department of Teacher
Education

.....

Like Bernhardt and Hollins, Jung views the curriculum reorganization as positive. "It doesn't mean our current graduates aren't well-prepared. It means we should always take advantage of every opportunity to improve."

As an example, she points out WSU's response to strong evidence that children



reaching middle childhood and beyond need special attention in certain subjects. WSU students expecting to teach in grades 4-9 will choose any combination of two from math, science, social studies, and language arts for concentrated study.

"We directed all course work and field experience to accomplish one focus—positive student achievement. That's what every single teacher values the most," says Jung.



Gregory R. Bernhardt, dean, College of Education, on site at Fairborn's Five Points Elementary School, one of WSU's Professional Development Schools

Content Knowledge First

At Wright State, with a few exceptions, students will complete a bachelor's degree in the area they plan to teach and complete the licensure requirements at the graduate level.

"Our aim in preparing teachers is to make sure students have excellent content knowledge, that they really know how to teach, and that they have opportunities for

real-world experiences often and early, working with practicing, hopefully master, professionals," says Bernhardt.

This real-world experience is possible through WSU's innovative Professional Development Schools, located primarily in Fairborn, Trotwood, and Dayton.

Through this approach, student teachers are taught much of the theory, formerly learned at WSU, in actual classrooms of the partner schools.

"This is a tremendous knowledge base for us," says Bernhardt. "By association with the faculty who work with kids Monday through Friday, we can ask each other what we should do to help us improve our instructional programs."

Most student teachers will spend an entire year working in one classroom with the teacher and students (rather than moving between schools), team teaching three days a week, and taking university classes two

days a week for two-thirds of the school year. For the last third, they will be in the classroom working with the teacher five days a week. This provides the continuity of seeing children develop over the year, a missing element in the old system.

Combining a strong concentration on content knowledge with intensive field experiences illustrates WSU's innovative planning, according to Jung.

"It is important that we place a substantial number of students in schools willing to work with us. The schools will benefit as well by having our students enriched with a wider sphere of knowledge," she says.

Another relationship helping the university to establish strategy and leadership is membership in the National Network for Educational Renewal. WSU is one of only two Ohio universities participating in this national group that examines and shares ideas for improvement of schools of education.

Of the 50-some Ohio schools of education, WSU is one of 19 that meet the highest standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the only nationally established accrediting agency.

"When You're a Teacher"

Andrea Wheeler, just completing her freshman year at WSU, knows she is in the right place to prepare for the teaching career she has wanted since early childhood.

It began with a first grade teacher who "followed me and helped me all the way through to high school graduation. She made me think she genuinely cared and that she knew me personally. That's really what inspired me," says Wheeler.

Bright and capable, Wheeler was a direct admit into the College of Education and Human Services last fall, becoming a rookie with program changes. With the first year of basic classes nearly over, she finds the study "more difficult" than she thought, but she's confident WSU will prepare her well for her future.

"There are plenty of challenges ahead, but hearing the words, 'when you're a teacher,' in class is so exciting," Andrea says.

Her words echo Dean Bernhardt's belief that "...public education is one of the foundation blocks making our nation work. All children have the right to learn from good teachers who love what they do, who can prepare them to lead into the next century." ■

The New Laws

In 1996, Ohio legislators created a new system for teacher licensure:

- **New licensure groupings**—Early childhood (ages 3–8; early childhood special education); middle childhood (ages 9–14); and adolescent (ages 14–21). In addition, multi-age licenses will be issued (e.g., special education, art, music).
- **New state teaching exams**—Developed by the Educational Testing Service. Ohio standards are among the most difficult in the country.
- **Performance evaluation for new teachers**—Those who pass the state teaching exam receive provisional licensure and are evaluated in the classroom by state assessors and monitored by a district mentor. Teachers have two years to pass the performance evaluation to earn their first professional license.
- **Continuing education for renewal of licensure**—Teachers must renew their licenses every five years by taking additional courses and participating in professional development programs.



Veronica Dudley with student

Her True Calling

Armed with a bachelor's degree in criminal law and political science, Veronica Dudley tried several careers after she graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1989. However, it wasn't until she tried her hand at substitute teaching that she found her real vocation.

"I discovered that teaching is my true calling," she says. Today, Dudley is a first grade teacher at Edison Elementary School in Dayton.

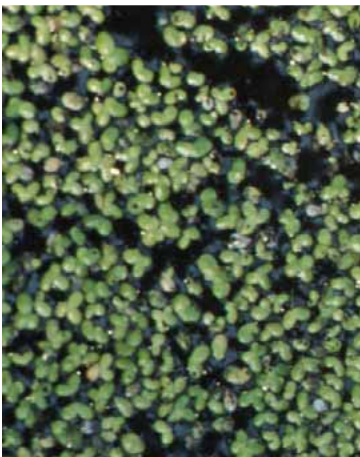
She earned her teacher certification through WSU's Professional Educator Program (PEP), which combines university course work and hours in the classroom. To enter the program, participants must have a bachelor's degree. Many current students, like Dudley, have completed time in the workforce. In addition, the program requires a full-time commitment of 12 to 15 months.

"It's definitely an intense year," she says.

Each class, or cohort group, is paired with teachers from a partnering school district—which includes Fairborn, Dayton, and Trotwood-Madison school districts—who serve as supervisors and mentors.

Upon completion, participants are eligible to take the National Teachers Exam for recommendation for licensure. In addition, a Master's of Education degree in classroom teaching may be earned after successfully completing an inquiry project.

For more information about the Professional Educator Program, call (937) 775-3086; e-mail cehssrvs@wright.edu; or visit the web site at www.wright.edu. ■



Background: Duckweed, a floating pond plant. Inserts, from left: a butterfly on Swamp Milkweed; Cardinal Flower; Wing-stem Sunflower; Swamp Thistle

They've been viewed as mosquito breeding, weed-infested quagmires. Approximately 90 percent of Ohio's wetlands have been lost—drained, filled in, or paved over, all in the name of development and agriculture. Researcher and conservationist James Amon, WSU associate professor of biology, is working to protect and restore wetlands as ecological treasures that control flooding, filter our drinking water, and provide habitat for over half of our nation's rare and endangered plants and animals.

Wetlands

E C O L O G I C A L T R E A S U R E S

By *Connie Steele*

Wetlands are called the kidneys of the earth,” says Amon. “They filter ground water and recharge underground aquifers. The five-acre Philips Park wetlands alone provides 1.3 million gallons per day to the aquifer that supplies Beaver Creek’s drinking water.”

The focus of his research and conservation efforts is the complex Beaver Creek Wetlands corridor, a 1000-acre, 10-mile strip of marshes, swamps, and fens along Big Beaver Creek that extends from northeast of Fairborn to the scenic Little Miami River. The work has included the painstaking process of cataloging by students and volunteers over 475 of an estimated 600 species of plants that grow there.

The Stuff of Life

It is the rich mucky soil of a wetland that supports the diversity of plants and wildlife who seek refuge from the suburban sprawl.

“During the summer drought of ’88, this area was cool and lush, with hawks and owls flying overhead,” says Amon, standing amidst the butterfly-shrouded milkweed and golden-flowered potentilla that thrive along the wetland bordering New Germany-Trebein and Beaver Valley Roads. “When it was 20 below, it was not that brutal here. The 55-degree ground water warms the area.”

Amon has centered his research on fens, wetlands fed by ground water. “There is little standing water in a fen,” he explains. “Instead, the decaying plants create a floating mat of peat. If you bounce on the ground, it gives, kind of like bouncing on a water bed.”

In conjunction with a graduate thesis project four years ago, Amon and his students constructed a breeding pond near the Siebenthaler fen to establish a self-sustaining community of spotted salamanders, a common wetland amphibian that was absent in the Beaver Creek Corridor.

Scientists like Amon have discovered declines in amphibians and are concerned. “Amphibians have very sensitive skin and are the first to suffer when pollutants enter the environment. They are our early warning system.”



James Amon and graduate student Vaughn Anderson gather specimens for a dragonfly study.

A Community Effort

At times, Amon acts as community activist and organizer. A cofounder and past president of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association (BCWA), Amon marshals a cadre of volunteers who do everything from gathering seeds, extracting weeds, and transplanting seedlings grown in the WSU greenhouse. Volunteers have also ripped out old drainage tiles to raise water tables, and heavy equipment operators have bulldozed old levies and carted in new soil.

“Conservation and restoration work is a labor intensive process,” he says. “Lots of people have joined hands to make this work possible.”

The fruits of this community effort are evident at the 50-acre Southdown Cement wetland. “The area was pretty much reduced to hard clay,” says Amon. Today, thanks to volunteers who planted over 90 different species of wetland and prairie plants, the area is a lush and thriving complex of wetlands, prairie, and scrub forest.

Much Work to Be Done

According to Amon, efforts should now concentrate on protecting what's been accomplished.

"Development, farm runoff, lawn chemicals, air pollution—these all threaten our wetlands," he explains. "We need to establish more transitional habitat—a habitat buffer zone—to protect what we have.

"Planning a community should include planning for green space," he adds. "If we wait much longer, the green will be gone forever. We have, because of our crowded world, lost the luxury of doing what we please and assuming that nature will heal our mistakes. Mother Nature is not resilient any longer." 📍

A Sampling of WSU Wetlands Research

- Undergraduate Honors Project: Amphibian Species Richness Survey of the Beaver Creek Wetlands. Baseline data will be used for future monitoring of the corridor's amphibian population.
- A \$100,000 grant shared with the Department of Geology from the U.S. Army of Engineers to study fen restoration. Research results led to the construction of a full-scale fen on New Germany-Trebein Road.
- A graduate research project looking at which plants stay active during cold winter months for use in purifying wastewater from sewage plants.
- A \$267,000 grant from the North America Wetlands Conservation Council for the restoration, enhancement, and acquisition of wetlands to the Beaver Creek Corridor. Resulted in a net increase of almost 500 acres. Partners included BCWA, the Nature Conservancy, Southdown Cement Co., various businesses, as well as federal and state agencies.
- A \$400,000 grant from the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute to build a wetland to treat ground water pollutants at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
- A study on the use of yard waste and mulch to replenish damaged wetland soil.

Clockwise from left: 12-spot skimmer dragonfly (one of several species of mosquito-eating dragonflies attracted to wetlands); bumble bee on Swamp Milkweed; Featherfleece; Amon on observation tower at the New Germany-Trebein Road wetland. Boardwalk was built from recycled plastic.



Happy New Year (and may I borrow your flashlight?)

Social Responses to the Y2K Bug

By James Steinberg
Associate Professor of Sociology
Wright State University-Lake Campus



The Y2K problem clearly demonstrates our reliance on computers for the smooth functioning of our society's institutions.

While most organizations recognize that Y2K is a computer-programming problem, the public has interpreted Y2K in wildly different perspectives, ranging from the notion that Y2K is media hype to supporting eschatological doctrines predicting "the end of the world as we know it."

Actually the Y2K bug is a significant computer problem, and immense expenditures have been made by government and corporations to correct it. The fix involves updating date-sensitive software and verifying that business partners and suppliers are prepared.

A People Problem

As January 1, 2000, gets closer, the people-problem associated with Y2K is gaining attention. An uncertain public becomes more vulnerable to fear mongers, fostering an atmosphere where mass anxiety and panic reign. World Wide Web information will mushroom as citizens are advised to store food, water, and fuel. While intended to reduce fear and hysteria, these messages may actually induce panic buying and runs on banks, making the dire predictions come true.

Little solace is to be found in the media, whose reports frequently use the disclaimer, "no one knows for sure what the impact of Y2K will be, but..." Interestingly, the media has produced movies and television specials that have capitalized on this new concern with apocalyptic themes; fear is appealing and profitable.

Even though the timing of Y2K is coincidental, historical explanations of the end of the world in messianism, millennialism, and apocalypticism may mark Y2K as a historical event preceding the end of history. During this uncertain time, conspiracy buffs will invent diabolical if not paranoid rumors that blame technology and the government as causing societal decline.

What Is the Y2K Software "Bug"?

The so-called "bug" relates to how a computer's operating system recognizes chronological dates. Many older systems used the last two digits to specify a year and ignored the first two. Therefore, when computers detect the date 00 (or 2000) they may register it as 1900 which could result in erroneous output or a shutdown.





On Friday, December 31, 1999, the Y2K problem may be not just one computer malfunctioning, but the simultaneous avalanche of many systems: "Happy New Year! Please pass the champagne, and may I borrow your flashlight?" (Actually, power companies have reported making great strides in reducing the potential for power outages.)

Solving the Y2K Problem

Although many critics charge that not enough is being done, federal and state governments along with business, education, and local government sectors have taken big steps to establish Y2K policy. *The Washington Post* reported that federal agencies alone would spend about \$7 billion to

help ensure their computers are compliant. Federal law now requires businesses to make a reasonable effort to be Y2K compliant.

Since mid-1998, the Senate Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem has steered a number of initiatives, including one with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to enforce broker-dealers to disclose Y2K disclosure statements and a ruling requiring companies to disclose current and projected Y2K costs as an indicator of Y2K readiness. Earlier this year, Wall Street's computerized trading system tested its system for Y2K with no malfunctions.

The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion established a Coordinating Center to provide links with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State Department, and industry. Dubbed a threat to national security, Y2K prompted the Defense Department to initiate a \$3 billion computer repair and replacement program.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires that all nuclear power plants have at least two emergency generators to provide for cooling in case of a power outage.

The FAA reports that they are on schedule to have the entire system fixed and tested by June.

On the international scene, Chinese officials ordered their airline executives to take a flight on January 1st, revealing their dramatic solution to the problem.

One surprise effect of this flurry of activity is a huge increase in computer purchases. As a result, *Wired News* predicts a "buying fade" in PC computers by next year as business' capital budgets are depleted due to expenditures reaching the level of global economic disruption.

The Problem of Public Overreaction

Perhaps a greater threat than computers crashing is the overreaction by a public caught up in collective panic behaviors—bank withdrawals, stockpiling food and water, and mass protests about shortages or delays in services.

The darker side of overreaction is those who misinterpret events as a justification for violence. *The Christian Science Monitor* reported that domestic terrorism is pos-

sible by alienated millennialists with a grudge against the government.

The Futurist warned that the media could start a crisis by reporting nightmare scenarios or implying government crack-downs, situations conducive to misinterpretation. In Milwaukee, a number of citizens complained of the ominous tone in the local paper there, which they say could create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

A More Likely Scenario

During the fall of 1999, there will likely be a growth of advertising for products focusing on Y2K readiness, resulting in a flood of consumers stocking up on essentials—generators, heaters, medicines, and, for the fearful, perhaps weapons. Although acquiring a weapon is an unnecessarily drastic step, it is reasonable for individuals to prepare for possible interruptions of services.

However, I maintain that there will not be major widespread outbreaks of mass hysteria or panic. The primary reasons are: 1) media attention is preparing the public. In fact, television and print media have already inundated the public, and as curiosity and concern increases as we get closer to December 31, so will news focusing on Y2K; 2) continued technical work on computers to minimize Y2K problems; and 3) an improved disaster-response system brought about by the most costly disasters in U.S. history—Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Hurricane Andrew in 1992, and the devastating Mississippi floods of the spring of 1993.

It is true that in the U.S. some workers may experience work delays due to parts shortages. But I do not foresee office workers who do not receive their paychecks marching to payroll offices armed with staplers.

However, in all likelihood, there will be some unique and positive experiences as a result of Y2K—opportunities for revivalism and a joy that is related to peaceful millenarian movements. In Columbus, Ohio, pastors see Y2K as a challenge in community self-help, to look after the sick and elderly if there are shortages.

For many, celebrations will occur on December 31, 1999, as hopeful Americans welcome the dawn of a new millenium. ☐

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PLEDGES \$500,000 TO WRIGHT STATE

The Wright State University Alumni Association (WSUAA) announced in February a gift of \$500,000 over five years to support Wright State University programs and organizations.

“This gift will be used for programs from all areas of the university that support the alumni association’s mission,” says Mike Reynolds, president of the Alumni Association’s board of directors. “Our mission is to cultivate lifelong relationships with current and future alumni of Wright State and to promote pride and recognition of Wright State and its graduates.”

President Kim Goldenberg pointed out his pride in the growing number of WSU alumni. “Of our 58,000 alumni, 26,000 have stayed in the region, taking leadership roles in business and government, and serving the community as educators, doctors, nurses, artists, scientists, engineers and more,” he says. “And now they are giving something back to Wright State.”

A portion of the gift will be used to purchase lights for WSU’s soccer field, which will be renamed Alumni Field.

“The lights become a win-win for everyone,” says Mike Cusack, director of athletics. “We will be able to schedule games so our fans can come out for night games, and we can schedule practices around classes for the student-athletes. This will also assist us in reaching the next level, which is an MCC Championship and an NCAA Tournament bid.”

The Wright State Alumni Association was founded in 1971 with 106 members. Today, its membership totals 7,105 members who live in 48 states. The association has regional chapters in Washington, D.C., Cincinnati, and Columbus. ☐



Mike Reynolds, president, WSU Alumni Association, acknowledges the cheers of the crowd during a break in the homecoming game when a ceremonial check for \$500,000 was presented to WSU’s president, Kim Goldenberg, from the association. From left: Hylton Dayes, men’s soccer coach; Mike Cusack, WSU athletic director; board members Catherine Pearson, Greg Notestine, Tom Broockey, and Dave Leadingham; President Goldenberg; and board member Marshall Rose.

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

Since 1972, the members of the Wright State University Alumni Association have actively supported university scholarships. To ensure the Wright State University legacy among its members, the Alumni Association established the WSU Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship program in 1994. Since its inception, Legacy Scholarships have provided over \$108,000 in scholarship money to the sons, daughters, and spouses of Association members. For more information about the scholarship program, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620.

Recipients of the 1999–2000 Legacy Scholarships are:

John Berbach, Amy D’Aloiso, Katie Dickey, Ryan Dock, Thomas Donaldson, Diana Drago, Jennifer Duncan, Stephan Graham, Daniel Johnson, Emily Johnson, Ariana Kalter, Shandra Kalter, Melissa Kemmann, Adam Lemmer, Jennifer Leonard, Lisa Leonard, Dora McCarty, Jonathan Moore, Alexandra Nolan, Molly Rice, Jessica Rice, Michael Schoech, Kari Sierschula, Matthew Skira, Christopher Stamas, Ryan Stanley, Megan Steininger, Elizabeth Stump, Angela Svisco, Rachel Warden.

Hello fellow alums,

Since the last issue of *Community*, the WSU Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations have been extremely busy. We have had road trips with the Raiders, a wine tasting, Homecoming '99, and the annual Alumni Awards Banquet, just to mention a few of the activities.



Mike Reynolds

The year got off to a great start with YOUR Alumni Association's gift of \$500,000 to the university (see article on opposite page). We are looking forward to a "kickoff" party this fall for the new soccer facility, to be named *Alumni Field*, made possible from a portion of this gift. We hope you will be included in the large turnout we're expecting for the naming ceremony. Watch for future announcements about other programs and departments benefitting from this gift, the largest-ever donation the Alumni Association has made to the university.

This year's homecoming week was bigger and better than ever. If you missed it,

please plan to attend next year. Several events were held throughout the week, culminating in the Saturday men's basketball game, which the Raiders won in dramatic fashion. The Nutter Center was jammed with alumni and friends to see the game. During a timeout, a ceremonial check presentation was made

to President Kim Goldenberg in recognition of the association's \$500,000 gift.

The Alumni Association also paid tribute to Rick Wegmann, recipient of the 1999 Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award. Rick is a deserving winner of this award and represents WSU and the association very well.

Prior to the homecoming basketball game, the Alumni Association Board of Directors and several past presidents of the board met in the association's Nutter Center suite. The purpose of this gathering was to dedicate a plaque to all 17 past presidents, thanking them for their service to the association and



the university. Please stop by the Alumni Association suite (#2) next basketball season, see the plaque, and visit with other alumni and friends.

We are also pleased to continue the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship program this year by announcing awards to an ever increasing number of WSU students.

Have a great spring and summer and stay in touch with YOUR Alumni Association.

Mike Reynolds, President
WSU Alumni Association



Your Connection—The WSU Alumni Association

Yes! I want to maintain my connection to Wright State by joining the WSU Alumni Association. Enclosed is a check (made payable to WSU Alumni Association) or charge account information. Send payment to Wright State University, Office of Alumni Relations, Alumni Foundation Building, 3640 Col. Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001 or call 1-800-535-0688 or (937) 775-2620.

Annual membership: \$35 single* \$50 joint
Life membership: \$450 single (or through our installment plan of eight quarterly payments of \$56.25)
 \$600 joint

- Would you like to participate on an Alumni Association committee?** Yes No
- Would you like to serve as a resource for career networking? Yes No
- Would you like to serve as a student mentor? Yes No

Name _____ Social Security No. _____ Yr. of Graduation/Degree _____

Address _____ E-mail address _____ Telephone _____

If you elect joint membership, please provide information on spouse.

Name _____ Social Security No. _____ Year of Graduation/Degree _____

Charge Account Information

VISA MasterCard Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Membership dues are fees for programs and services and are not considered a tax-deductible contribution.
*Five dollars of your membership dues go to your college or school for alumni programming.



Dedication of the Alumni Association Presidential Plaque

During the 1999 Homecoming festivities, the Alumni Association unveiled a plaque dedicated to all past presidents of the Alumni Association. On hand for the presentation were members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, several past Alumni Association presidents, as well as several alumni and guests who gathered in the Alumni Association's suite at the Ervin J. Nutter Center for the short ceremony, followed by a reception. The plaque, which will be on permanent display, lists the names of all 17 presidents of the Alumni Association and their years of service.

Upcoming Alumni Association Events

Everyone Loves a Parade

The Alumni Association will participate in several area parades this summer:

July 4—Fairborn, Ohio

July 23—Dayton Air Show, Vandalia, Ohio

September 6—Holiday at Home, Kettering, Ohio

Golf Anyone?

September 17—Alumni Association Annual Golf Outing. Benefits the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship Fund. Pipestone Golf Course, Miamisburg, Ohio.

For information on any of these events or programs, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620.

Rick Wegmann— Alumni Achievement Award Winner

The

By Connie Steele

At the age of 13, Rick Wegmann (82 M.B.A.) was already a budding entrepreneur. He and his 23-year-old brother were renting computer time at a local business to operate their own billing service for a local Cincinnati hospital.

"I guess that's when I was first bitten by the entrepreneur bug," says Wegmann.

Today, Wegmann is chairman and CEO of Digital Concepts, Inc., an information technology firm that he and fellow WSU alumnus Stephen Solch established in 1984 with an initial outlay of \$800. Located in the Apple Valley Research Park in Beavercreek, DCI has annual sales of over \$3 million and a workforce of 50 who help managers of middle market manufacturing and distribution companies make better use of information technology.

However, it's more than his business success that sets him apart. Wegmann devotes countless volunteer hours to making the Miami Valley a better place to live and grow, earning him the Alumni Association's 1999 Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award.

"Rick is a great role model for our students of how one person can make a big difference," says WSU president, Kim Goldenberg, who has known Wegmann for many years.

Lisa Anderson (90 B.S.B.; 94 M.A.), DCI business development manager, nominated Wegmann for the honor. "Rick has been my mentor for 10 years," she says "Ever since I've known him, he has volunteered in all aspects of community life. Yet, he manages to maintain a balance with his business, family, and civic life."

Wegmann's volunteer work has ranged from coaching his son and daughter's sports teams to serving on the boards of the Dayton Ballet, the Engineering and Science Foundation, and the Armed Forces Communications-Electronic Association, which honored him with their Meritorious Service Award in 1994. A member of the Rotary Club of Dayton and the Electronics Equipment Manufacturer's Group, he is active in the Engineers Club of Dayton and the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. He also has found time to tutor students in the computer lab at Incarnation School.

"In the business world, there seems to be this attitude that the more you have, the more successful you are," he says. "But I think success comes down to what I learned early in life from my parents—that true satisfaction comes from making a difference—from giving back—especially to the community and people who helped me get to where I am today."

For Wegmann, that community encompasses Wright State.

"As a student working full time and taking classes part time, I

“In the business world, there seems to be this attitude that the more you have, the more successful you are. But ...true satisfaction comes from making a difference—from giving back—especially to the community and people who helped me get to where I am today.”

True Mark of Success

was very impressed with the quality of Wright State’s programs. The courses were relevant to what I was trying to do in the business and management areas. The professors had a good business sense—many were working in the business world at the same time, so they helped me to see how to apply what I was learning to what I would encounter in the real world.”

The real world of entrepreneurship opened up for Wegmann and Solch in 1982, when the two met for lunch and “out of the blue,” Solch brought up the idea of starting their own business.

“We realized that we were a good fit,” says Wegmann. An electrical engineer, Solch, who is DCI’s president, was well suited to provide the technical expertise, while Wegmann’s background in business made him the finance, accounting, and marketing expert.

Using their own money, they started their business, working out of their homes instead of a corporate office. “Basically, what we were selling at the time was our brain power.”

The two have maintained a conservative fiscal approach to business, which, according to Wegmann, allows them to concentrate on service excellence rather than “growth just for the sake of growth.”

“We maintain a line of credit only for working capi-

tal purposes only—we have no long-term debt,” he explains. “We believe it’s important to invest in our most valuable asset—DCI’s professional staff.”

In 1998, they decided the timing was right to enter into a joint venture with the CPA firm of Battelle and Battelle LLP, forming Battelle Technology Solutions, which provides information technology

services for Battelle clients and other commercial firms.

Over the past four years, Wegmann has volunteered with WSU’s Corporate Appeal—the past two leading a team that raised the most money in this annual drive that seeks funds from the business community for WSU scholarships, program enhancement, and outreach. Named a chair-elect

for the 1999 campaign, Wegmann will serve as the appeal’s chair in the year 2000, assuming, as Wegmann humorously says “The world doesn’t cease to exist because of Y2K!”

Wegmann was honored with the award at a special banquet last February.

“As I said at the awards dinner, I have always enjoyed my association with Wright State. And I look forward to continuing my support for the university’s mission.”

Wegmann lives in Springboro with his wife, Barb, and their two children, Ricky, 12, and Hannah, 11. ☐



Rick Wegmann gives some advice to a participant at the West District Science Day held at the Nutter Center in March. Wegmann was a judge representing the Dayton Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Association, which awards a \$100 savings bond to local winners and a \$500 award for projects that go on to national competition in Washington, D.C.

CLASS OF 1969

◆ **Mike Brigner (B.A.)**, a Montgomery County domestic relations court judge, has been reappointed as chair of the Ohio Judicial Conference Family Law and Procedures Committee, which is currently developing standardized statewide domestic relations court forms for adoption by the Ohio Supreme Court.

CLASS OF 1970

◆ **Delores M. Etter, Ph.D. (B.S., 72 M.S.)**, was named the newest member of the board of directors for National Computer Systems, Inc., last June. Prior to her appointment, Etter was a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Etter was recently nominated for the presidential appointment as the deputy director of defense research and engineering at the U.S. Department of Defense. She is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, has served as president of its Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing Society, and was awarded the Distinguished Public Service Award for service to the Department of the Navy. Etter is also a member of the Defense Science Board, which advises the Secretary of Defense on technical and policy-related issues.

John "Jack" A. Kalina (M.S.) was appointed vice president and chief information officer of Borg-Warner Automotive, Inc. in February.

Roger S. Kintzel (B.A.), publisher of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* since 1995, delivered the University of Tennessee's summer commencement address last August. Kintzel has served as publisher of four of Cox Enterprises's Atlanta newspaper operations and has worked with the company since 1995.

CLASS OF 1972

◆ **Barbara Bostrom (B.S.Ed.)** has recently been appointed as district coordinator of guidance for Lebanon Schools.



Erik Bork spoke to theatre students during a visit to campus last winter.

WSU Grad Lands Emmy

When Erik Bork and actor Tom Hanks stepped on stage in Los Angeles to receive an Emmy for their HBO mini-series, *From the Earth to the Moon*, it was one of those *The Right Stuff* moments. For Bork, it was the culmination of a quick rocket ride to success as a Hollywood writer and producer.

He described his win as being "like when you're a football player, and you dream of that Super Bowl ring." A 1989 graduate of WSU's Department of Theatre Arts, Bork landed a job as a secretarial "temp" at 20th Century Fox in Hanks' office. Hanks recognized Bork's potential and promoted him to project manager and later to co-producer for the 12-part mini-series, which chronicled the Apollo space missions. The series, which won three Emmys, was his first professional writing assignment.

"The Emmy was such a group achievement," says Bork, 33, who was one of three co-producers and part of a 10-member production team. "One of the reasons I chose to work in film was because of its collaborative nature."

With the Emmy, the former WSU motion pictures major has established his credibility as a screenwriter and producer. He is co-writing a historical feature film with Hanks about World War II for Universal Pictures.

This is not Bork's only brush with Emmy fame. His first production job was in 1992 when he served as a producer's assistant on the Emmy-winning TV series *Picket Fences*. He credits part of his success to WSU motion picture faculty members Chuck Derry, Julia Reichert, and Jim Klein.

"They went above and beyond," he says. "Their influence was crucial. They guided me and encouraged me as an individual and aspiring filmmaker."

Bork and his wife, Milinda, live in Tarzana, California, with their two sons, Daniel, 5, and Jonathan, 2. He dreams of someday writing and directing movies or creating his own TV show.

"I feel like I'm just out of the starting blocks," says Bork.

His advice to anyone who wants to be a screenwriter?

"Follow your dream and focus on improving yourself and your work. Be humble and be willing to listen," he concludes.

Bork spoke to theatre students winter quarter during a visit to the WSU campus.

By Kristin Kopp

Robert Geiger (B.A.) became partner at Stolberg, Meehan & Scano last September. Geiger will also serve as chief operating officer of SMS Brands, an affiliate of the company that invests in food and consumer packaged-goods companies. In the past, Geiger has been employed as vice president and general manager for the Tape and Label Products Division of Nashua Corporation, president and COO of Royal Business Forms, and vice president of operations and planning for Pitney Bowes Direct Marketing Division.

◆ **Vivienne Himmell (B.A., 77 M.S.)** received the 1998 WSU Distinguished Social Work Alumnus Award last August. Himmell has been a clinical social worker and an advocate for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities for the past 25 years.

CLASS OF 1973

◆ **Timothy E. Staiger (B.S., 78 M.S.)**, an environmental specialist for Ohio EPA, became a new part-time faculty member in the Institute for Environmental Quality at Wright State and in the Biology Department at Sinclair Community College last year.

CLASS OF 1974

Janet Swaim (M.Ed.), a fifth grade teacher at Five Points Elementary School from 1959 to 1991, was one of seven new honorees to be inducted into the Fairborn City Schools Hall of Honor in April. Those honored were selected for the high level of attainment they have reached in their professions, the recognition they bring to the school and community, and the example of achievement they set for present day students.

CLASS OF 1975

◆ **George Ford (M.Ed.)** retired last December after 32 years as an educator, including more than two decades as an administrator with the Trotwood-Madison City Schools.

Ronald G. Maurer (M.B.A.) recently relocated to Las Vegas, NV, where he is a controller for Cashman Equipment Company, the Caterpillar dealer for the state of Nevada.

J. Donald Mottley (B.A.; 76 M.S.) was re-elected to the House of Representatives for Ohio's 41st district.

CLASS OF 1976

Michael Markus (B.F.A.; 83 M.D.), an internist at Good Samaritan Hospital, directed the musical *Once Upon a Mattress* for the Dayton Playhouse community theater.

Steve Miller (B.S.Ed.) was selected as the new superintendent of the Sidney School District in January. Miller was previously superintendent of the Botkins School District in Shelby County.

🎸 **Ira Stanley (76 B.S.B.),** lead and slide guitar player and vocalist for the '70s band Dixie Peach, reunited with three of the band's other members to play a concert at Canal Street Tavern last summer.

CLASS OF 1977

Rev. Mark James Keely (B.A.) has started a new ministry and outreach program for children throughout the Detroit area based on the performing arts. The program, open to any child regardless of race, economic background, or faith, will involve students in dance, theater, and singing programs that focus on values, like respect for the environment, common to many faiths.

CLASS OF 1978

🎸 **Iras Donahue (B.S.B.)** recently passed the CMA exam and was promoted to vice president of finance at Railroad and Industrial Credit Union in Tampa, FL.

Mark Twehues (B.Mus.) was music director of the musical adaptation of *It's a Wonderful Life* last December at the Aronoff Center for the arts in Cincinnati.



Steve Hampton in his home studio

Composer's Tunes Take TV Land

Millions of people hear his music each week, but you might have a hard time naming any of his compositions.

Composer Steve Hampton (80 B.Mus.) is part-owner of Admusic, a Santa Monica, California, company that composes and produces original music for television shows and radio and television commercials. Clients include Izuzu, Nike, Microsoft, Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Jeep, Acura, Intel, and the NBC television programs "Just Shoot Me" and "One World."

"We are one of the top music houses in the country for network TV commercials," Hampton says. Recent TV ad campaigns scored by Admusic include Washington Apples, KIA, Lexus, Nintendo, and Mountain Dew. Hampton's original music for the Izuzu Rodeo "Giant" commercial, recorded with an 80-piece orchestra, received a Gold Clio award. He also composed the main title theme for "Just Shoot Me," which earned a BMI Award.

Hampton estimates the company does about 80 percent of its work in music scoring, and 20 percent in jingles. Scoring requires careful timing so that the music accents are in sync with the video.

"We usually postscore the music, which means we get a rough cut of the picture first, take timings, and then score the music so that certain accents line up with the picture," Hampton explains.

Television's fast pace doesn't allow much time for writing and recording. First, Hampton meets with his clients to exchange ideas. He then goes to his home studio, or "writing cage" as he calls it, to record a demo using computers, digital samplers, and his own guitar playing if required. He then sends the demo to the client, and makes any necessary revisions. Then Hampton completes the musical arranging, books the recording session, hires musicians, and sends the score to a copyist, who prepares the individual parts for each orchestra member.

"The next step is the final session where my clients are present along with engineers, musicians, and the whole works," Hampton says. "We record and mix the same day, and it's a done deal. If I'm lucky, I'll get a day for writing and a day for recording. Sometimes the process gets done in a single day. The deadlines are crazy!"

Admusic employs 16, including four composers, a music editor, and a sound designer.

In May, Hampton visited WSU to receive the Department of Music's Outstanding Alumni Award. He also spoke to two music classes.

By John Bennett

CLASS OF 1979

Stephen Percival (B.S.B, 87 M.B.A.), human resources director for Washington Regional Medical Center, recently began a three-year term on the Fayetteville school board.

Linda Rauch (M.S.) has been hired as a counselor with the Employee Assistance Program of Greene Hall and GMH WorkPlus of Greene Memorial Hospital in Xenia, where she will provide short-term counseling for hospital employees. Rauch also has a private practice in Centerville.

CLASS OF 1980

Vernon L. Sykes (M.S.), the highest ranking democrat in the House of Representatives, was re-elected state representative for the 44th district last November. Sykes, who has held this seat since 1984, was featured in *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* article "8 Blacks Who Paved the Way" in February.

CLASS OF 1981

Charles A. Fryman (B.S.B.) was appointed administrator of Sugarcreek Township last October. Fryman has worked for Greene County for the past 15 years, serving eight of those years as chief deputy auditor.

Deb Staley (B.S.Ed.) is owner of Circa, a store that specializes in antiques, folk art, collectibles, and whimsical home accessories and also houses Theodore's Bear Emporium. The store, which opened last July, is located at 8 W. Franklin St. in Centerville. Staley is a full-time special education teacher at Centerville High School.

🎓 Alumni Association member

CLASS OF 1982

Joseph C. Fisher (M.B.A.) has been chosen as assistant vice president for facilities and services for West Virginia University. He will guide a \$250 million expansion and renovation project through the next decade and will also help handle campus safety and the NASA facility in Fairmont, WV. He is responsible for environmental health and safety, public safety and transportation, and the Physical Plant, which manages building maintenance.

Jim Jewell (M.D.), who often makes his rounds on his Harley Davidson, is a family physician, gerontologist, and medical director of four Rock Hill, SC, nursing homes and two assisted living centers. He is also actively involved with the York County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, as well as New Hope Carolina.

Michael Yost (B.S.B.) was named finance director for Brookville in January. Yost was previously an assistant vice president for Brookville National Bank.

CLASS OF 1983

Juliette (Julie) Jandel-Leavitt (M.A.) joined Optio as manager of customer communications where she is responsible for the development and implementation of the company's customer communications programs. Prior to joining Optio, she worked for 13 years at the Hayes Corporation, an Atlanta-based manufacturer for modems, holding various positions, including director of marketing operations, group manager of multimedia marketing, and technical information manager for the systems planning group.

Jan Mueller Labbe (B.S.N.; 89 M.S.) has joined the staff of the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association as the director of public affairs.

Leanne Spencer (B.S.B.) has been appointed to the position of senior vice president and controller at Fannie Mae, the nation's largest source of funds for home mortgages.



Dana Owens

Sharing An Ecumenical Message

It's a giant leap from high school to college and, for many freshmen students, the challenges of that first year can be overwhelming. So it was for Dana Owens. However, instead of giving up, Owens found the challenges to be a catalyst for turning to his faith for strength. The turn around he experienced not only led to a bachelor's degree in mass communication in 1992, it was also the beginning of a spiritual journey—one of ecumenical discovery that took him from his Baptist roots to a Methodist seminary, where he encountered another culture's view of God through a transcultural studies trip to Africa; to a Presbyterian church, where he served as a youth minister; and finally, to a Catholic university, where he is pursuing a master's degree in theology.

Owens' background made him the ideal speaker for a luncheon last January sponsored by the Campus Ministry Center, as part of its observance of the World Council of Churches' Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

"I want to go back to my Baptist roots to conduct my ministry," says Owens, who plans on graduating with a master of divinity degree from the University of Dayton next year.

"I don't see a problem, being an ordained Baptist minister who graduated from a Catholic university. I'm trusting God to help me bring an ecumenical message back to my Baptist congregation. For me, the key question that I want to help members of my congregation address is, 'Who is God in my life. And how can I allow Him to guide my life?'"

Owens lives in Dayton with his wife, Shalonda Bayless-Owens.

By Connie Steele

CLASS OF 1984

Michael L. Gargas (B.S.; 88 Ph.D.) was appointed national director for ChemRisk, McLaren/Hart's human health and ecological risk assessment group. Gargas, an expert in human health risk assessment and biochemical toxicology, has published over 60 peer reviewed journal articles and been a contributing author for seven books.

Carla Sacher (B.S.Ed.; 91 M.Ed.)

was one of 17 women who competed on the Orthopedic Institute of Dayton softball team last year. The team has competed at the ASA national tournament 11 of the past 14 years. Last September the team placed third and tied the team record for best national finish.

Richard D. "Rick" Smith (M.D.), a pediatrician in Harrison Twp., was appointed to a position on the Northmont Board of Education last September.

CLASS OF 1985

Joe Bonamico (B.F.A.) played Eddie Carbone, the central character in Arthur Miller's "A View From the Bridge" which opened last November in Cleveland. Bonamico has spent his summers in the New Philadelphia outdoor historical drama "Trumpet in the Land," playing Simon Girty, a man who was captured as a boy and raised by Indians for six years. He has also written a play based on Girty's life called "White Savage," which has been added to the New Philadelphia repertory.

P. John Hartzler (M.B.A.) is president and chief operating officer of Edge Technologies and its subsidiary Etrema Products, Inc., Ames, in Des Moines, IA.

Susan Marie (Robenalt) Hieber (B.S.Ed.) is currently working on her master's degree in secondary education and is substitute teaching for Hall County Schools in Gainesville, GA. Previously, she worked for two years as a full-time teacher at the middle school level.



Richard C. Meyerhoefer (B.S.B.) has been named motion control applications specialist at Delta Computer Systems, Inc.

CLASS OF 1986

April (Wilson) Barnswell (B.A.; 88 M.A.), a World Wide Web and multimedia designer who develops computer-based training programs, has started Cotton Crossings, a business that sells her original cross-stitch patterns. Barnswell markets the patterns on her Web site located at <http://www.cottoncrossing.com>.

CLASS OF 1987

Keith Josef Adkins (B.A.) wrote "On the Hills of Black America," a collection of seven short plays linked by theme, which was performed at the Cleveland Public Theatre in February. The short pieces in the work often show vivid, funny, and nightmarish elements based on

Adkins' experiences and his questioning of black iconography and mythology.

Michael Bohler (B.S.Eg.) earned a master's degree in computer science from the University of Dayton last August. Bohler is an electronics engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB.

◆ **Mary Rancee (Chattoraj) Leder (B.S.; 92 M.D.)** recently graduated from a developmental-behavioral pediatrics fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Children's Hospital in Boston, MA. She currently holds a faculty position at The Ohio State University/Children's Hospital Child Abuse Program.

Kevin Stephens (M.B.A.) was named city site manager of ActiveDayton.com (www.activedayton.com) by Cox Interactive Media (CIMedia) last December.

CLASS OF 1988

Denise Baisden (M.S.) was deputy crew surgeon for the October Discovery mission that brought about John Glenn's historic return to space. Baisden was second in command of a team of medical specialists that conducted medical examinations, monitored life support systems, and tested the effects of weightlessness on all seven of Discovery's astronauts.

Rose Ann Conway (M.S.) is the new human resources director for Greene Memorial Hospital. She was previously employed as a compensation analyst with Miami Valley Hospital, where she has worked for 15 years.

Tyler Ray Greenlees (B.A.) has been a photographer for the *Dayton Daily News* since 1984.

Earnest Grodi (M.S.) has become vice president of geophysics at Duer Wagner and Company, an oil and gas company engaged in exploration and production of hydrocarbons within the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast, in Fort Worth, TX.

David M. Hasl (M.S.; 92 M.D.) joined General and Vascular Surgical Specialist Inc. in the practice of general surgery.

Nona Lightman (B.F.A.; 90 M.A.T.) teaches Oriental brush painting to Rosewood Art Center students in Kettering. Lightman was introduced to the art of Oriental painting when she visited the museums in Tokyo. She later studied the technique under local artists, as well as a Chinese master at a workshop in Minneapolis.

Kenneth M. Stickevers (M.B.A.) was named vice president of brand management for Gateway last October. In the past, Stickevers was director of customer development at The Pillsbury Company and held senior brand management positions with Kraft Foods.

Jennifer L. VanMatre (M.Ed.) was selected as the 1998 Teacher of the Year by the Sidney School District last October. VanMatre is the eighth-grade language arts and gifted and talented teacher at Bridgeview Middle School. Among her accomplishments, VanMatre was selected as a representative in the Educator to Japan program sponsored by the Honda of America Foundation, in 1997.

CLASS OF 1989

Dave Clark (B.A.) was named as the editor of the *Beavercreek News-Current* in January. He has worked at several newspapers, including the

Beavercreek Daily News, the *Hamilton Journal-News*, the *Tipp City Herald*, and the *New Carlisle Sun*. While working at the *Kettering-Oakwood Times*, he was honored as the state's top high school sports writer for non-daily publications.

Riley Driver (B.S.Eg.) is president of the Dayton Chess Club. The 50-60 member club meets semiweekly at Seattle East coffee shop.

Marie Perkins Fridenmaker (89 B.A.) was awarded the Daughters of Liberty Medal by the Richard Montgomery chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution last May. The medal is the second-highest national medal that can be awarded to a nonmember of the SAR.

Thomas P. Glass (B.A.) has become an associate with the Strauss & Troy law firm. Glass is a member of the litigation department involved in state and federal court litigation. He is admitted to practice in Ohio, Kentucky, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

◆ **Lori Jones (B.S.B.)** received her master of arts degree in computer resource management in December. Jones is a transportation specialist for the Department of Defense.

Adam J. Kaplan (M.D.) relocated to Greenville, MS, in August 1997 to practice general surgery. He has recently been appointed chief of surgery at Delta Regional Medical Center and The King's Daughters Hospital. He also serves as the medical director at the B. G. Dowdy Center for Women.

Katrina Oost (B.F.A.) returns to Dayton to star as Maggie the Cat in the Dayton Playhouse's production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. In the past few years, Oost has been doing graduate work at the University of California, as well as working in film and television. Recently she has been doing stand-in and body-double work in films like *Color of Night* and television shows like *E.R.* and *Baywatch*.

CLASS OF 1990

George Caras (M.Ed.) was named the new principal of John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Kettering. In the past, Caras has taught in the Dayton School District, has been assistant principal at Miami Chapel/Louis Troy Elementary, assistant principal at Meadowdale High School, and principal at Ruskin Elementary School for the Cultural Arts/Japanese Language.

Teresa Connair (B.F.A.), a professional actress, teaches a biannual adult theater workshop at Rosewood Arts Centre in Kettering, as well as an acting class at the Oakwood Community Center. She also taught the Youth Summer Theater group at the Oakwood center, which performed *Doctor Dolittle* last July.

◆ **Holly R. Counts (B.S.; 96 Psy.D.)** was licensed as a clinical psychologist in December 1997 and promoted to Beavercreek site manager at The Community Network.

Robert L. Murner (M.B.A.) has been appointed vice president of Demand Creation by GTECH, the world's leading supplier of computerized online lottery products and services. Murner will be responsible for product development, marketing,



WSU Theatre Grad Wins Kennedy Center ACTF Award

Tim Nevits, a 1998 honors graduate of the Department of Theatre Arts, was honored by the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival with a special Musical Theater Award for his original musical, *Homestead*, which premiered in May 1998 at WSU's Herbst Theatre. *Homestead* was used by Nevits as part of his application and acceptance to New York University's master of fine arts program.

Nevits previously won a KC/ACTF award in 1997 with the record-breaking production of *1913: The Great Dayton Flood*, which he co-authored with department chair, W. Stuart McDowell. It was selected to open the KC/ACTF in 1997 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

"This is one of the main awards for new authors in theatre," says McDowell. "We are very excited for Tim. He was an exceptional student who is now living his dream in New York."

The award is sponsored by the National Committee for the Performing Arts and includes a cash prize of \$2000 for Nevits and \$1000 for Wright State's Department of Theatre Arts.

and ensuring customer satisfaction with products and systems.

Wendy Shemano (B.S.) and her husband, **Dave (92 B.S.)**, helped the *Dayton Daily News* review and rate the new wave of ready food items for an ongoing featured column beginning last June. They were one of five families to serve on the rotating panel of tasters.

Beryl Wight (M.A.T.) runs an art therapy program for Alzheimer and dementia patients at the Atria Cordova retirement home in Cordova, TN.

CLASS OF 1991

◆ **Melissa Ann Critchfield (B.S.B.)**, C.P.A., C.M.A., has been published in the *Journal of Accountancy*. She is plant purchasing manager at The Procter and Gamble Manufacturing Company.

Ken Crutchfield (M.B.A.), director of strategic planning and development at US Interactive, has recently written a White Paper exploring the difficulties of Internet commerce entitled "Barriers to Internet Commerce—Then and Now."

Fadhil (Phil) Hussein (M.D.) joined the practice of Heart Specialists of NorthWest Ohio, Inc. located in Toledo, OH, in December.

CLASS OF 1992

Shaunn Baker (B.F.A.) is producer-director and one of three partners of WorldStage, a semiprofessional theater company based in Dayton. WorldStage debuted last October with its production of *The Complete Works of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)* at the downtown Engineers Club.

Thomas A. Knoth (B.S.B.) is the Michigan district pricing analyst at UPS.

Sean G. Kuhn (B.A.) was selected as 1998 Outstanding Young Man of America. Kuhn was nominated by the president of the college where he was director of admissions last year. Kuhn is a technical recruiter for CIBER Information Services.

Mary Leonard (B.A.) was appointed the new president of the state Controlling Board by Gov. Bob Taft in March. Leonard also will be a policy adviser for Taft on issues before the legislature.

Caroline Thomas (B.S.B.) received the highest score in the state on the Certified Public Accounting exam last May.

Timothy Whitestone (M.Ed.) became principal of Dixie High School in New Lebanon last August. Previously, Whitestone was the vocational director/assistant principal of Stebbins High School in Riverside. He has also worked for ten years as assistant principal and a teacher at Trotwood-Madison High School.

CLASS OF 1993

Bradley S. Ellis (B.S.B.) has joined Duff & Phelps Credit Rating Co. as a ratings analyst. Previously, Ellis worked with Triple-S, Inc. in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as a senior financial analyst.

William E. Joy (M.B.A.) has been promoted in the Air Force to the rank of Major. He is a Senior Systems Engineer assigned to the Air Force Material Command at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Kristin O'Neal (B.F.A.) performed in the Centerville City Ballet second annual winter Concert in January. The program featured the premiere of "Silent Voices, Breath Be Heard" by O'Neal. She was also featured in a duet called "Til the Cows Come Home." She is a member of a dance company in Miami, FL.

Debbie Thompson (B.A.; 96 M.A.) was elected to the position of board secretary by the Northwest Priority Board. Prior to her appointment, she was a quality management analyzer for the Eastway Corp.

CLASS OF 1994

Charles Bowling (B.A.) was chosen by the Democratic National Committee to head its national Young Democrats program. Bowling worked as research

assistant for U.S. Rep. Tony Hall's 1992 campaign, as an intern in his Washington office the following year, and as campaign manager for his 1994 re-election.

Reva Cosby (M.Ed.), a teacher at Kiser Middle School, is working on her doctorate in education leadership at the University of Dayton.

Denny McCarty (B.A.) represented Ohio in the World Championship of Performing Arts in Los Angeles in October. McCarty plays the guitar, harmonica, and is learning the drums. He entertains in rehabilitation centers and senior centers, as well as some clubs, and can often be seen performing at Samuel Johnson's Coffee House.

Jeanne Smith (M.Ed.), a special education teacher in the West Carrollton School District, received the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Special Educator Award in Columbus last August. Smith moderates a program introducing handicapped children into regular classrooms by instructing teachers and non-handicapped students how to interact with disabled children. She also began a program, Positive Alternatives, for severely behaviorally handicapped students to prevent them from expulsion or suspension and to address their special needs. Smith was chosen from among 20 other candidates from Montgomery County to receive the award.

Michelle Zimmerman (B.A.) co-starred as Mary Hatch in the premier holiday musical production of *It's a Wonderful Life* at Cincinnati's Aronoff Center. She was also cast in the role of a daughter in the Aronoff's October production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

CLASS OF 1995

Mark Harden (B.S.Ed.), Vandalia Butler High School reserve golf coach, shot his second career hole-in-one last July on the par 4, 391-yard 13th hole at The Players Club in Lexington, KY.

Brett Harmon (B.S.E.E.) is a project engineer at Beta LaserMike, a company which makes sophisticated measuring devices using lasers. He was featured last June in an article about career advancement opportunities made available by taking Sinclair Community College courses.

Cameron Kurowski (M.D.) has joined Tidewater Drive Primary Care, a division of Bon Secours DePaul Medical Group.

Todd Lawson (B.F.A.) portrayed Hero in the Rip Taylor tour of the musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, which played Springfield's Kuss Auditorium in February.

◆ **Eric J. Sedwick (B.A.)** passed the CPC exam in December 1997. Sedwick is an executive recruiter at Interim Executive Recruiting.

Gia M. Wilson-Mackey (B.S.) was recently commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserves at Edwards AFB, CA.

CLASS OF 1996

Matthew Fritz (B.A.) has completed extensive renovation of the two-story frame house known as the McCracken house in the city's historic preservation district. Fritz and his wife Leslie, owners of Mosaic Construction and Design Inc. and the Franklin Street Furniture Shop, received the Historic Preservation Award last November from the Centerville-Washington Twp. Historical Commission.

Lanny B. Greenbaum Jr. (B.S.B.), chief of the Research, Development, and Training Branch for the 53rd Support Squadron at Elgin AFB in Valparaiso, FL, has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. Greenbaum was recently selected as the company grade officer of the year for his squadron and will have a new assignment at Schriever AFB in March.

◆ **Kelly A. Long (B.A.)** is a first year student at John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

James H. Romaker (B.S.B.) is a second year law student at Vanderbilt University School of Law. Romaker is a member of the legal honorary fraternity Phi Delta Phi, is a member of the Moot Court Board, and was a Moot Court Quarter Finalist in fall 1998.

◆ **Jennifer L. Sappington (B.S.; 97 M.A.)** started her own business, Independent Research Consulting (IRC), this past spring. IRC, which specializes in research and statistical analysis for the criminal justice community, has developed software that is currently being used in the newly formed Domestic Violence Squad of the Dayton Police Department.

CLASS OF 1997

◆ **Jeffrey Scott Peitz (B.S.B.)** has taken a position with American General Finance.

Ed Reboulet (B.S.), a graduate student at Boise State University, is working with a research team along the Boise River to study ways of identifying soil type by sending shock waves into the ground, an alternative to drilling.

Amy L. Short (B.A.) is providing two years of full-time service as a voluntary worker for the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian and Gay Concerns in Minneapolis, MN. Her position not only gives her the opportunity to work with individuals in their struggles with Brethren and Mennonite denominations, but also allows her to experience a simpler way of life.

John Theobald (B.A.) was named Clayton's new assistant city administrator last November. Theobald was formerly the head of the Montgomery County Young Democrats and a clerk for the Board of Elections.

CLASS OF 1998

◆ **Brian Arkenau (B.S.B.)** is serving as an Army 2nd lieutenant at Fort Lee, VA.

A Romance With Romance Fiction

A funny thing happened to me on my way to my Ph.D.," says Jennifer Smith (86 M.A.). The once public school art and English teacher, now a columnist, student, critic, and college lecturer, has added "author" to her long list of accomplishments.

After reading and researching more than 100 romance novels for a doctoral dissertation on gender differences in fiction, Smith now crusades for the genre as Jennifer Crusie. Her use of the pseudonym, taken from her grandmother's maiden name, is not meant as a disguise.



Jennifer Smith

Romance novels, criticized by many feminists, "are really an intrinsically feminist genre," says Smith, who became empowered to eradicate the stigma associated with romance novels after her own experience with reading them. "I felt wonderful about being a woman and very positive about the future. So I thought, 'If romance fiction makes me feel this good when I read it, what will it do to write it?'"

The result was nine category romance paperbacks for Harlequin, Silhouette, and Bantam, and two hardcover single novels through her new publisher, St. Martin's Press. Her most recent book, *Crazy for You*, was released in March.

Smith's romance writing career began at Wright State, where she earned a master's degree in professional writing and women's studies. "It opened my eyes to all the possibilities I'd been missing, and it showed me that women's voices

and experiences were as valid as men's in literature and in life."

Smith discovered that popular fiction was especially fertile ground for feminist scholars. She credits her work in feminist literature with mentor Mary Beth Pringle, professor of English at Wright State, for inevitably leading her into romance and inspiring her to write. "She really rescued me, introduced me to feminism, gave me direction."

Pringle remembers her student as a rare human being. "The first thing I noticed about her writing was how incisive it was, that combination of getting to the heart of the matter, and humorously," says Pringle, who still uses Smith's work in her classes.

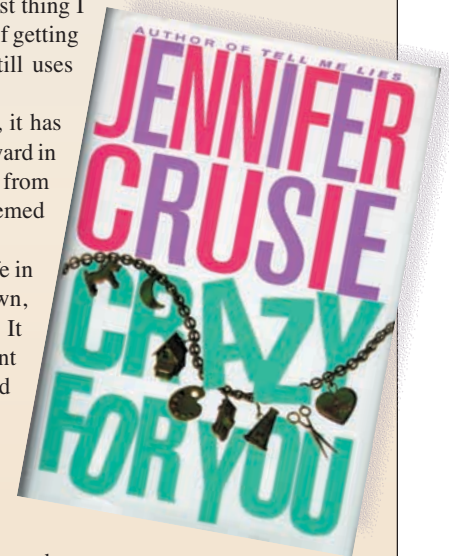
That humor, Smith says, is what sets her books apart. In fact, it has earned her several awards for her works: a Lifetime Achievement Award in Romantic-Comedy from *Romantic Times Magazine*, and a Rita award from the Romance Writers of America, one of the genre's most esteemed honors.

Smith frequently draws from her experiences throughout her life in Ohio, incorporating into her books memories from her hometown, Wapokeneta, and her public school teaching days in Beavercreek. It takes her 15 months to write a book, with two-thirds of that time spent on percolating her ideas, which "is mostly reading and walking around talking to myself and staring at the ceiling," she says.

Smith's whirlwind life also includes teaching at Ohio State University, writing essays on romance, giving speeches and workshops, writing a newspaper column, and, of course, her dissertation, which is on hold indefinitely.

In the meantime, Smith is on a national book tour and working on her newest book, *Welcome to Temptation*, due out March of 2000. "I'm incredibly fortunate to be where I am now," says Smith. "One of these days I am going to have time to stop and enjoy it. Until then, it's pretty much full speed ahead and rest later."

Visit Smith's web site at www.sff.net/people/JenniferCrusie.



By **Stephanie Irwin**

Rowdy Raider

BRINGING THE COSTUME TO LIFE

By Stephanie Irwin

In Wright State's Nutter Center, a chorus of howls echos across the arena, and a wolf runs clumsily across the court. Students cheer, children laugh, and the game begins.

The "howl" is a trademark of Wright State's mascot, Rowdy, who uses it to rally the crowd during basketball season. It is part of a repertoire of moves developed by the first student to don the wolf costume since its debut in fall 1997. A pioneer of Rowdy's charm and personality, Rowdy's real-life alter ego is a junior majoring in mass communication whose identity must remain anonymous while in school.

He developed Rowdy's character at a cheerleading training camp in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where he, along with mascots from other colleges across the country, learned to devise stunts and skits. Each student has creative control of his mascot, and Rowdy has continually evolved since the first day of camp.

"Sometimes I will be in the middle of a game, and an idea will hit me, and then I incorporate it," he says. A naturally animated person, he says he gets further inspiration from watching cartoons.

Bringing the costume to life is a rigorous job requiring strength and stamina and up to two hours preparation for an event. The suit's cumbersome size, weight, and head-to-toe fur make spontaneous combustion seem a real possibility when combined with running, jumping, and tumbling. "The heat is by far the worst part. I can sweat through three T-shirts during one game."

The huge feet can make walking dangerous, especially when walking through unfamiliar territory. During one particular timeout, Rowdy was handing out pizzas to reward noisy fans. "I went running around a corner and slipped in a puddle of water. I fell to my knees in front of 5,000 fans and the opposing team's bench!" He shrugged off the embarrassment as "one of the million funny things I do."

Hard work does have its rewards. Rowdy the wolf has earned an All-American award each year since becoming WSU's mascot, and recently took first place in a competition sponsored by the National Cheerleading Association at the MCC basketball tournament.

"The role of the mascot at Wright State has become much more important," he says. Rowdy appears in numerous magazines, newspapers, and on television; visits students in local elementary schools; and entertains at area parades and festivals.



“Rowdy is a family man and loves kids. I’m proud that young children look up to him.”

When Rowdy’s current animator graduates in spring 2000, Wright State will be on the lookout for a new person to don the furry suit.

What skills must be listed on a potential Rowdy’s resume? “Athletic, creative, intelligent, funny, somewhat tall (to fit the costume), mentally tough, and ready to do what the coach asks,” he says. “I want the next mascot to better than I was... and to represent Wright State in the best way possible.” 🐺



Rowdy Royalties

Raise Dollars

By Stephanie Irwin

Wright State’s wolf does much more than rally crowds at basketball games as a mascot—he also raises money for WSU students.

As one of the university’s new athletic registered trademarks, the wolf appears on licensed collegiate merchandise, from which Wright State receives a 7.5 percent royalty fee. Revenue from royalties is distributed entirely to student scholarships.

The scholarship funds include gender equity scholarships through the Department of Athletics, assistance for non-traditional students through the Office of Financial Aid, and book scholarships for students at the Wright State Lake Campus.

The athletic marks appear on everything from stuffed animals and clothing to baby bibs and mouse pads—even cell phone faceplates, available through Cincinnati Bell Wireless.

Look for new lines of accessory items and merchandise as they are unveiled this summer and fall through the Wright State University Bookstore.

A Look at 1998-99 Athletics

By Matt Zircher

Men’s Soccer (Won 11, Lost 7, Tied 3)

The Wright State men’s soccer team came on strong at the end of the season to finish second behind nationally ranked Butler in the MCC standings and advanced to the MCC finals before falling in overtime. Six received all-conference honors as seniors Michael Sylborne and Dan Cwiklik were each named to the MCC First Team, senior Devin Jones was selected to the Second Team, and Marco Elcock was chosen as the conference’s Newcomer of the Year. Travis Sobers and Josh Hutson were each named to the All-Newcomer Team.

Women’s Soccer (Won 8, Lost 11, Tied 2)

The women’s soccer team made history as they pulled off three straight upsets in the MCC Tournament to become the first WSU women’s team to ever qualify for the NCAA Division I Tournament. Four Raiders were selected to the MCC All-Tournament Team: Tina Stonitsch, Stephanie Monahan, Taryn Jones, and Randi Freeman, who was named MVP.

Besides the tournament accolades, five players were selected to the MCC All-Conference teams: Jody McCord — First Team All-MCC; Missy Daniels, Teresa Martin, and Sharon Roscoe — Second Team. Roscoe and Freeman were also picked to the All-Newcomer Team.

Volleyball (Won 11, Lost 18)

Under first-year coach Joylynn Tracy, the Raiders advanced to the semifinals of the MCC Tournament before falling to eventual champion Wisconsin-Milwaukee in five games. Two seniors received all-MCC honors as Carrie Monnes was named to the First Team while Joanna Downie was chosen Second Team.

Men’s Cross Country (Won 61, Lost 67)

The men’s cross country team finished in the top half in five of their nine meets despite having just one senior on the roster. Junior Adam Meier was WSU’s top finisher in every race this season.

Women’s Cross Country (Won 33, Lost 105)

The women’s cross country team struggled with no seniors and just two juniors on the roster. Freshman Emily Hampshire was WSU’s top finisher in every race this season, including a 14th place finish at the Wright State Invitational.



Tina Stonitsch helped lead the women’s soccer team to its first NCAA tournament



Keion Brooks was among the nation's top 20 scorers at 20.7 points per game, leading the MCC in scoring from start to finish.

**Men's Basketball
(Won 9, Lost 18)**

Keion Brooks' senior campaign highlighted the season as he led the conference in scoring and was named First Team All-MCC. The season also featured the development of several young players, including sophomore forward Kevin Melson and freshman guard Marcus May. Both were named to the conference's All-Newcomer Team while Melson was the MCC's Newcomer of the Year.

**Women's Basketball
(Won 7, Lost 20)**

The Raiders struggled with youth and inexperience all season, often tapping three sophomores for the starting lineup. Two of those sophomores received all-MCC honors as Reggen Stewart was named Second Team All-MCC while Amber Williams was chosen to the All-Defensive Team.

**Men's Swimming & Diving
(Won 6, Lost 8)**

The Wright State men's swimming and diving squad just missed winning the MCC title, losing out in the final event. Sophomore NCAA qualifier Justin Thornton had an outstanding conference meet, winning three individual titles and setting two MCC records along the way. He was named the MCC Men's Swimmer of the Meet and Newcomer of the Year. The Raiders overall won seven events and set four MCC records.

**Women's Swimming & Diving
(Won 5, Lost 10)**

The Raiders won their sixth conference title in the past eight seasons — the third in their five years in the MCC. Wright State won seven events at the MCC meet, including senior Kristin Cusimano in the 500 and 1650 free-style, senior Julie Graham in the 100- and 200-breast, and sophomore Chasi Riley in the 100 back. The 200 and 400 medley relay teams also won conference crowns.

**Men's Tennis
(Won 19, Lost 11)**

The men's tennis showed great improvement this season as they set a new school record for wins in a season and finished second at the MCC Tournament. Four Raiders received All-MCC honors in sophomore Warren Gavin and freshmen Veasna Tith, Chad Camper, and Chad Derry. Head coach Herb Foster was also recognized as the MCC Coach of the Year.

**Women's Tennis
(Won 22, Lost 12)**

It was a season of milestones for the women's tennis team as the Raiders set a school record for victories in a season.

Head coach Charlie Painter reached his 150th win at WSU and 300th overall as a coach. Wright State finished fourth at the MCC Tournament and had two players named All-MCC in freshmen Melissa Dunham-Freer and Gloria Montero, who was also chosen as the MCC Newcomer of the Year.

**Baseball
(Won 26, Lost 28)**

The Raiders struggled with injuries, especially to the pitching staff, all season long, finishing fourth in the MCC. Head coach Ron Nischwitz, in his 25th season, picked up his 750th career win with WSU winning 25 or more games for the 15th time in the last 17 seasons. Senior shortstop Dusty Beam, who led the team in nearly every offensive category, was named First Team All-MCC while freshman center fielder Chris Ranstead was chosen to the All-Newcomer Team.

**Softball
(Won 33, Lost 20)**

Despite having just one senior and three juniors on the roster, the Raiders won 15 straight and 21 of 22 during March en route to posting the most victories ever by a WSU softball team. Five Wright State players were named Second Team All-MCC: junior Annie Divac; sophomores Michelle Demmitt, Amber Price, and Kim Sycks; and freshman Julia Tamai. Tamai and fellow freshman Amber Kolle were selected to the All-Newcomer Team.

**Golf
(Won 56, Lost 126, Tied 4)**

The Raiders struggled with a tough schedule all season but came on strong at the end to finish second at the MCC Championship. Senior Jim Henderson, who led WSU with a 74.7 round average, was named All-MCC as was junior Joe Osmon, who placed second on the squad with a 76.4 round average.

In the past two years, the **top scorers**
on Ohio's **CPA exam** were
graduates of one school—
Wright State University.



Danielle Rolfes (B.S. '97) took the top score on Ohio's grueling Certified Public Accounting exam in 1997. In 1998 Caroline Thomas (B.S. '92) matched her feat. Both were graduates of WSU's Accountancy Department.

"My professors were my friends. I could talk to them, lean on them and trust them," says Rolfes. "At the same time they inspired me to stretch my comfort zone, be all I can be, and think creatively. It is a rare combination to be so challenged, yet feel so comfortable."

The best come to Wright State. Check us out, and you'll see why.



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Caroline Thomas and Danielle Rolfes

A Look at Homecoming '99

WITH EACH YEAR, homecoming keeps getting bigger and better, and this year was no exception. The Office of Alumni Relations played a big part in helping make the week a success by sponsoring several events. To the theme of "Howl and Prowl," events included the ever popular mystery dinner (in which everyone was stumped by the actors!) to college and alumni buffets before the basketball game on Saturday night.

"We've heard a lot of good comments about how this year's homecoming generated a lot of school pride," says Susan Smith, director, Office of Alumni Relations. "Special thanks go out to all who helped make it a success. Plans are already underway for next year, and we need our alumni's continued participation and suggestions to ensure that it is even bigger and better. Alumni spirit is what homecoming is all about."



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