Ceremony and Ritual: The Art of Bing Davis Comes to WSU
GREETINGS,

Over 30 years ago, area residents understood that a public university in the area would benefit the lives of everyone. The result was a grass roots fund drive that created Wright State University.

Today, community partnerships remain a vital component of the Wright State mission. The following pages contain just a few examples of how Wright State and the community work together to benefit students and citizens in the Miami Valley and beyond: WSU’s Pre-College Program, which offers enrichment programs for area youth; the adolescent violence prevention program PACT, first implemented in Dayton schools and now up and running in 19 states; the Women’s Studies Program, whose interns are working to bring about social change; and alumna Phyllis Brzozowska, who leads an internationally renowned dance company based in her hometown of Dayton. The contributions of our outstanding alumni award recipients also enrich the community in numerous ways.

We are privileged to have Bing Davis serve as the first visiting scholar in our African and African American Studies Program. An internationally acclaimed artist who is also a Dayton native, Bing will bring the richness and vibrancy of African culture and art to his students as they work alongside him in his campus studio.

On a sad note, we lost two close friends this year—Ervin J. Nutter and Wick Wright. They will be greatly missed—especially by the Wright State community which has benefited so greatly from their belief in a university dedicated to improving the quality of life for all.

President, Wright State University

President Kim Goldenberg addresses the family and friends of Ervin J. Nutter at a memorial service held at the Nutter Center on January 15.

Both Ervin J. Nutter and his wife, Zoe Dell Nutter, have received recognition and awards during the past 20 years that acknowledge the impact their philanthropic gifts have had throughout the Miami Valley, across America, and around the world.

Guest speakers at the memorial service included Dr. Goldenberg; Sam Grice, former vice president of Elano Corporation; Wayne Morse, president of the National Aviation Hall of Fame; Gen. Lawrence Skantze; State Representative Steve Austria; Senator George Voinovich; Anthony Whitmore; Senator Mike DeWine; State Senator Merle Kearns; and Dr. Kenny Mahanes, vice president of Palm Beach Atlantic College.

F R O M T H E P R E S I D E N T ’ S D E S K

The family of Ervin J. Nutter held a public memorial service on January 15 in the main arena of the Ervin J. Nutter Center. A noted businessman, philanthropist, and past chair of the WSU Board of Trustees, Mr. Nutter passed away on January 5 at the age of 85.

Mr. Nutter’s $1.5 million donation in the 1980s was instrumental in the building of the Ervin J. Nutter Center on the WSU campus. The Nutter Center has been ranked as one of the top 10 entertainment venues in the country since opening in 1990, and it has been credited with the economic development and growth of the Beavercreek and Fairborn areas.

An active participant and supporter of Inventing Flight, Mr. Nutter was also a long-term member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame and a strong supporter of the 2003 Committee.

Ervin J. Nutter 1915–2000
12 CEREMONY AND RITUAL: THE ART OF Bing Davis

Wright State welcomes its first visiting scholar in WSU’s African and African American Studies Program—Dayton native and internationally renowned artist, Willis “Bing” Davis.

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The School of Professional Psychology’s Positive Adolescent Choices Training (PACT) is a national model for training youth counselors, teachers, and other professionals to equip at-risk youth with the skills to resolve conflict.

9 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DAVID PETREMAN

David Petreman, associate professor of Spanish, is also an award-winning poet. Many of his poems have sprung from his love of the Chilean people and culture and his concern for the human rights atrocities committed by former dictator Augusto Pinochet.

10 GIVING A VOICE TO WOMEN

Instituted in 1996, WSU’s Women’s Studies Program is about reclaiming and validating women’s experience and contributions in all fields of study—supporting the idea that “the rising of women means the rising of us all.”

14 NOT JUST ANOTHER SUMMER CAMP

Each summer WSU buzzes with the energy of pint-size pre-college students who learn everything from clowning to chemistry to computers.

16 MEDICAL STUDENT FOR A DAY

More than a hundred people from all walks of life attended the WSU School of Medicine’s Mini-Med Lab and Lecture Series last fall, sitting in the same lecture hall as medical students and listening to the same faculty members who teach the art and science of medicine.

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Phyllis Brzozowska (84 B.A.) is Dayton’s senior arts administrator, a career that includes founding the successful ethnic performing arts organization CITYFOLK and now as executive director of a national treasure—the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company.

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Martin Named Nursing Dean

Patricia A. Martin, Ph.D., was named dean of the Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health, effective January 1. Martin had served as interim dean since last October.

Martin is a member of the Ohio Nurses Association, a constituent state member of the American Nurses Association, and president of District 10 of the Ohio Nurses Association. She has authored more than 100 articles and presentations on issues in statistics, research, and nursing administration, and on her own research about pre-term infants. She serves on numerous professional, community, and academic committees locally and nationally.

Previously, Martin served as associate professor and director of nursing research at Wright State and as nurse researcher at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton. She first joined the WSU faculty in 1984, and has held visiting and clinical positions at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Cincinnati, where she earned her B.S.N. degree in nursing. Martin joined WSU full time in 1992. She earned her master’s degree in nursing from Wright State and her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University.

President Recognizes Staff Excellence

Last October, President Kim Goldenberg presented the President’s Award for Excellence to the following:

- **Willie Boyd**
  Associate Director of Financial Aid

- **Netty Yount**
  Senior Secretary, Department of Psychology

- **Joyce Howes**
  Assistant Dean, College of Science and Mathematics

- **Scott Kissell**
  University Photographer, Center for Teaching and Learning

- **Giorgio McBeath**
  Assistant Dean, College of Engineering and Computer Science

- **Jerald Kay**
  Director, Wright STEPP Program

**Creating Laboratory Access for Science Students (C.L.A.S.S.)**

- **President’s Award for Outstanding Collaborative Unit**
- **President’s Award for Excellence in Innovation—Unclassified**

- **Fitts Education Foundation**

- **Human Factors and Ergonomics Society**

- **Paul M. Fitts Education Award**

WSU Researchers Study the Seven-Year Itch

Lawrence Kurdek, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Psychology, was published last September in the *Journal of Developmental Psychology* for his longitudinal study on “The Nature and Predictors of the Trajectory of Change in Marital Quality for Husbands and Wives over the First 10 Years of Marriage: Predicting the Seven-Year Itch.” Featured in the September 27, 1999, issue of *Time* magazine, the study shows couples’ perception of their marriages decline over the first four years, then plateau, then decline again in years 8–10—a trend that couples report is due to the stress of child-rearing. Kurdek hopes that the study will be beneficial in helping couples understand the difficulties of marriage. “Knowing the pattern of marriage relationships might help couples stay together, if they can come up with positive ways to cope with it,” he said.

Library Loses Friend

G. Wilkinson Wright, 77, great-nephew of Orville and Wilbur Wright and longtime friend of Wright State, died December 9 in his home in Miamisburg. “Wick” Wright served as a spokesperson for his famous family and as an ambassador for Dayton’s rich aviation history. He received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Wright State last June for his work as founder and past president of the WSU Friends of the Libraries, and for his instrumental role in the selection of the university as the home of the Wright Brothers Collection.

Memorial contributions can be made to the WSU Friends of the Libraries, National Aviation Hall of Fame, Carillon Historical Park, Aviation Trail, Inc., Wright B. Flyer, or Dayton Engineers Club.
Model UN Team Members Ranked Outstanding

This year’s Model UN team from the Department of Political Science received one of two “Outstanding Delegation” awards at the regional conference hosted by Wright State and Sinclair Community College last month. Robert Patterson of the Food and Agriculture Organization was the keynote speaker and Congressman Tony Hall also visited the delegations.

Twelve universities and colleges from Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia sent teams to compete, with Taylor University also receiving an outstanding rating.

In the simulation, WSU’s team represented 11 countries in four committees of the UN. The WSU student delegation will attend the National Model UN Conference, April 17–22, in New York City, where they will represent the Federal Republic of Germany.

Computer Security Course Is National Model

Like a fence around a community of houses without doors, computer security in the United States is woefully inadequate. Rather than teaching future computer scientists to build better fences, Wright State’s new course in Internet security focuses on constructing secure systems from the ground up.

Funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, Wright State began offering a course called “Internet Security” winter quarter. This course provides a learning model for use by universities nationwide. With additional funds from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, the two-year, $69,000 NSF grant provides for the development of a course Web site and lecture materials to be shared with other universities. Information about the course can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.cs.wright.edu/~pmateti/Courses/499.html

Researcher Tackling Crippling Disease

Thanks in part to a new technique developed by WSU researcher Thomas Hangartner, the first drug designed to treat the progression of osteoarthritis, rather than just the symptoms of the disease, is undergoing Phase 3 clinical trials around the world.

Hangartner is the director of WSU’s and Miami Valley Hospital’s BioMedical Imaging Laboratory and a professor of biomedical engineering, medicine, and physics. He designed a device that determines whether the x-ray equipment used in the trial can make the critical measurements necessary to test the drug being developed by Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals of Cincinnati (P&GP). Hangartner’s device will be used to calibrate and certify the radiological equipment used in the clinical trials conducted at a dozen sites in the U.S. and Canada, and another dozen sites in Europe. Hangartner will also train all the technologists in North America in the special radiologic procedure.

Chemistry Professor Dies

Prem P. Batra, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, died February 20. He was 63.

A Wright State employee since 1965, Batra directed the Science Apprenticeship Program, a highly effective pre-college program designed to encourage minority and disadvantaged high school students to study science.

The family of Prem Batra requests donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association or to the Prem Batra Scholarship Fund established in the Wright State University Foundation. The scholarship is for graduates of the Science Apprenticeship Program who attend Wright State University.

Wright State ROTC Recognized

Major Gen. Stewart W. Wallace, commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command, recently recognized Wright State University Army ROTC for outstanding performance. Only four of the 92 schools within the Second Army ROTC Region received the prestigious Commanding General’s Award for Training Excellence. The award was presented at the Second Region Commander’s Conference held last November in Nashville. Lt. Col. Ronald E. Fry, department head, accepted the award.

Wright State Students Receive Free Software

Students at Wright State University began receiving computer software valued at more than $1,000 free of charge last October.

Wright State and the 12 other members of the Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC), an association of Ohio’s 13 public universities and two standalone medical schools, have signed a new licensing agreement with Microsoft Corporation. The three-year Education Select and Enterprise Enrollment Agreement allows Wright State and IUC member schools to provide students with the most popular Microsoft products at a cost determined by the university. Wright State opted to offer the software to its students free of charge, allowing them to check out Microsoft Office Professional for Windows and Macintosh from the university library, for use on their home computers. Other software, including Windows operating system upgrades, Front Page Web development software, and the Visual Studio Pro computer language suite are also available.

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WSU Research Award Highlights

Science and Math Teachers — A $42,683 grant from the Ohio Board of Regents will provide professional development to physical science and mathematics teachers at the elementary and middle school levels. The initiative will assist teachers in understanding state and national science and math education standards and implementing them in the classroom.

Increasing Minorities in IT — A small group of WSU professors is leading a national cyber-discussion on how to get more African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans to enter information technology careers. Oscar Garcia, chair, received a $150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to begin finding ways to get more minorities into computer technical jobs.

How Humans Communicate — A $2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation will study the way humans use gestures, gazes, and speech to communicate. The total cost of the project will be $3.5 million; the remaining cost of the project will be supported by funds from the Ohio Board of Regents Action Fund, Wright State, and Silicon Graphics Inc. The research will be conducted by a team of nine researchers from several universities around the world and will be led by Associate Professor Francis Quek from the Department of Engineering and Computer Science.

Improving Teaching — The U.S. Department of Education awarded Wright State a $149,926 grant to provide professional development for physical science teachers who are educating low-income or minority students in middle schools.

Monitoring the Environment — A $38,485 grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund was awarded to Wright State for the Southern Ohio GLOBE Environmental Science Education Initiative. WSU students will use scientific protocols to monitor local atmospheric, climatic, land cover, hydrologic, and soil condition and post data into a global database via linked Internet Web sites.
Ohio’s Cities: Past, Present, Future

A year-long study directed by Wright State University’s Center for Urban and Public Affairs (CUPA) was introduced February 10 at the Ohio Urban University Program’s (UUP) fifth annual public policy forum, “Ohio’s Cities in the Next Century,” in Columbus.

The study, “The State of Ohio’s Regions,” directed by Jack Dustin, Ph.D., director of WSU’s CUPA and chair of the Department of Urban and Affairs and Geography, covered topics such as demographic change, governance and government finance, transportation, housing and land use, economics, education, health, and environment. UUP researchers provided Governor Bob Taft’s Urban Revitalization Task Force with their data analysis of trends in Ohio’s 16 largest cities at the February meeting.

“This study of how Ohio’s urban regions have changed over the 20th century is a unique effort to learn from the past, assess the present, and plan for the future,” said Dustin. “Our research offers pragmatic ideas for addressing the issues of demographics, employment, education, land use, and environment. Next fall, our UUP forum will present our findings on crime, health, transportation, and governance.”

The study, “The State of Ohio’s Regions,” can be found at http://urban.csuohio.edu/~uup/uup-evnt2.html

Jocelyn Elders Speaks at Black Religion Conference

Former U.S. Surgeon General M. Jocelyn Elders was the keynote speaker at this year’s annual National Conference on the Future Shape of Black Religion, which was recently awarded a $12,000 grant from the Ohio Humanities Council (OHC). This year’s conference theme was “New Wineskin or Old Sackcloth? Challenges and Promises for Black Religion, Life, and Culture in a New Century.”

Held March 17 and 18 on both the Wright State campus and at Mt. Enon Baptist Church, the conference included a panel discussion Friday morning featuring Henry W. Foster, M.D., a former nominee for U.S. surgeon general who is currently dean of the School of Medicine and vice president of health services at Meharry Medical College in Nashville. A presentation Friday evening featured Peter J. Paris, Ph.D., president of the Society of Black Religion and the Elmer G. Homrighausen Professor of Christian Social Ethics at Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Department of Religion and the College of Liberal Arts sponsored the conference, with additional support from the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Goldenberg Meets With Dignitaries

Philippines Ambassador Ernesto M. Maceda met with WSU President Kim Goldenberg and other area officials on February 12 to discuss the current political climate of the Philippines and the opportunities and obstacles for trade with Miami Valley businesses.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Maceda lived in political exile in New York City from August 1978 to December 1985. He is the recipient of more than 50 national and international awards.

In his first 150 days as ambassador, Maceda has visited nearly 20 states, meeting with local business and government leaders to encourage greater globalization and competitiveness for the Philippines.

Joining Goldenberg and Maceda in the talks were Congressman Dave Hobson; State Senator Merle Kearns; State Representative Steve Austria; and the mayors of Fairborn, Beavercreek, and Xenia.

Undersecretary of the Air Force Carol A. DiBattiste was the guest of Wright State President Kim Goldenberg at a meeting last month with local community and business leaders sponsored by the Miami Valley Economic Development Coalition. Interim Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs Robert Hickey and School of Graduate Studies Dean Jay Thomas joined the president at the meeting.

February 17. WSU’s research collaborations with the Air Force, as well as those of the Air Force Institute of Technology and the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute, were presented to DiBattiste.

“During her visit to Dayton, the undersecretary concentrated on meetings with Wright-Patterson officials, as well as other community leaders who have been involved with funding the various Air Force efforts,” said Hickey, who joined Wright State’s staff four months ago. “Discussion focused on the Air Force budget for personnel and research.”

From left: WSU President Kim Goldenberg; Philippines Ambassador Ernesto Maceda; Congressman Dave Hobson; and State Representative Steve Austria.
When children learn how...to express their angry feelings without losing control or hurting other people, they have mastered skills that enhance their lives and the life of the community... Students want to know about violence prevention. Many of them have never had the chance to talk to anyone about fighting, violence, or death. When the subject is violence, sleepy and indifferent young people snap to attention.

—Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Deadly Consequences

STOPPING THE VIOLENCE

By Patricia McNulty Zeller

Seventeen-year-old Shawndistica Caldwell, a junior at Meadowdale High School, is living proof that these words are true. Four years ago, as a seventh-grader at Roth Leadership Academy, Shawndistica was angry at the world. She projected a hostile—almost violent—attitude toward just about everyone around her. Despite the fact that her grades were good, Shawndistica seemed to be headed for trouble.

But Shawndistica Caldwell was one of the lucky ones. Recognizing both her problems and her potential, Shawndistica’s teachers at Roth referred her to Positive Adolescent Choices Training (PACT)—a school based program designed by two faculty members in Wright State University’s Center for Child and Adolescent Prevention.

“Before I got into PACT,” Caldwell recalls, “I spent a lot of time in the office. I guess I was sort of a troublemaker. But PACT helped me learn why I was angry, and how I could cope with my anger in a better way.”

Making a PACT for Life

Based in the School of Professional Psychology’s Ellis Institute, PACT is the brainchild of Rodney Hammond, Ph.D., former WSU associate professor of psychology and current director of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and Betty Yung, Ph.D., associate professor and director of the Wright State center.

Started in 1989, PACT has achieved a national reputation for excellence and has been called “one of the foremost violence prevention programs in the nation” by the Ohio Commission of Minority Health.

Janeece Warfield, Psy.D., assistant professor at the WSU School of Professional Psychology, serves as coordinator of the PACT program. “The PACT program,” Warfield points out, “is currently intended for elementary or middle-school children. Our specific purpose is to reduce the risk that youngsters will become victims or perpetrators of violence. We hope to accomplish this by addressing the problem of expressive violence that comes from a loss of emotional control. Although we originally designed the program for sensitivity to the needs of African American children, the PACT techniques are appropriate for many other groups.”
Who Gets to Be Part of PACT?

It’s up to the teachers, counselors, or principals of the school where PACT is offered to select students who appear to be at high risk for falling into (or falling victim to) violent behavior. Teachers and others evaluate students according to these criteria:

- how they relate to their peers
- what behavior problems they have demonstrated
- the level of aggression they display
- any history of committing violence, being a victim of violence, or being exposed to violence.

“At Roth,” says Fay Day, principal of Roth Leadership Academy, “we have had up to 75 students in the program a semester. Two days a week, they were excused from an elective class—like art, music, or health, for example—so they could attend the PACT program. The sessions were small—no more than 10 students at a time—with two rooms dedicated to the program: one for the participants and the other for those who wanted to observe the sessions through a one-way mirror.”

How Does the PACT Program Work?

Each group is led by a professional who has been specially trained to use the PACT model. At Roth, the leaders were graduate students from the WSU School of Professional Psychology. The focus of PACT is on learning three skills that will help kids resolve conflict without violence:

- “Givin’ It”—Learning appropriate, nondestructive ways to express anger, criticism, or displeasure.
- “Takin’ It”—Learning how to receive negative feedback, how to react appropriately to the criticism or anger of others.
- “Workin’ It Out”—Learning how to work the problem out through negotiation; achieving resolution through compromise.

Most students who have been through the program say the second skill—“Takin’ It”—is the most difficult to learn—but also the most useful. To accomplish their goals, group leaders may begin with a videotape that features role-playing situations that vividly illustrate how successful these skills can be in helping angry kids defuse potentially violent situations.

(Continued on next page)
How Do You Measure Success?

There’s no guarantee, of course, that participating in a PACT program will turn a child’s life around. PACT doesn’t promise miracles. But it does promise to present choices—choices kids may never have known existed—choices that give kids options—choices that really work.

“We do try to evaluate the program’s effectiveness,” Yung says. “We look at school records to see if the kids are fighting less and getting fewer reprimands than they did before they got involved in PACT. We also track our ‘graduates’ through the juvenile court system. The results are encouraging: PACT students are only half as likely as a comparison group of peers to fight at school or to be arrested for a violent crime.”

Success or failure isn’t always immediately apparent. Roth principal Fay Day believes the PACT program “presents a wonderful opportunity to teach students coping skills. It plants seeds. Sometimes we don’t see the results for a couple of years or more. But it’s worth the wait to see how these kids have developed.”

Kids like Shawndista Caldwell, for instance. Today, Shawndista’s life looks very different from her life as a seventh-grader at Roth. Today, she has a plan. She has recently entered the ROTC program at Meadowdale High School, with the goal of not just going to college, but also to law school—and then on to Judge Advocate General (JAG) School—which will prepare her for a legal career in the military. And there’s more good news: Shawndista has been invited to be a member of the newly formed Peer Mediator Group at Meadowdale, where she will help other students learn to prevent violence. Can PACT make a difference in a young person’s life? Shawndista Caldwell certainly thinks so.\(^\text{M}\)

Nationally Recognized PACT Program Now in 19 States

Originally started as a means of teaching violence prevention to at-risk African-American youngsters in a Dayton inner-city school, PACT (Positive Adolescent Choices Training) now encompasses all racial and ethnic groups at every economic level and is up and running in 19 states.

Professionals from as far away as Oregon, Arizona, Louisiana, Florida, and Wisconsin have been trained at WSU’s Violence Prevention Training Institute (VPTI) to put the PACT program in place in their local schools.

“We’ve concentrated on training in states where the homicide rate exceeds the national average,” says Betty Yung, Ph.D., director of the WSU Center for Child and Adolescent Violence. “We train facilitators to help kids from 10 to 18 in three areas:

- understanding their feelings of anger and knowing what to do with those feelings;
- dealing with someone who’s angry at them; and
- negotiating and reaching a compromise.”

The VPTI training also focuses on group behavior management and parent training as ways to prepare professionals to deal with at-risk youth.

Yung points out that the locally developed PACT program has achieved national recognition based on the outstanding quality of its training materials and the fact that PACT is one of the few violence prevention programs in the country that has tracked long-term behavioral outcomes.

In 1995, PACT was one of only four national programs reviewed and endorsed as a promising initiative for addressing school violence by the General Accounting Office. PACT has also been recommended in program reviews by the U.S. Department of Education and the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. In addition, PACT was one of 10 (out of 87 programs reviewed) that received an “A” rating in an independent national review by Drug Strategies, Inc.\(^\text{C}\)
TRAVELING TO THE TENTH REGION

When in winter
the first chestnuts were being eaten
and the rain
was like a young girl sliding
between window panes,
you looked over your children
one by one and face to face,
and divining their dreams,
or your dreams, you said
with secret hope: doctor,
enGINEER, housewife, farmer,
tree, ear of grain, poet.

Mother: we have betrayed you.
We are the most illustrious vagabonds
on earth.

Marino Muñoz Lagos
(Translated by David A. Petreman)

SURROGATE

I enter a room
Untouched in eleven years.
Single linens stretched tight,
Blankets layered
Against the length
Of more Santiago winters
Than they counted
To be without him.

On the chair
Smooth kangaroo skin
Unworn by the back
Of a young man
Pressing to read
In the first light
Of Andean dawns.

Closets full of hangers,
One robe waiting
To bring him home.

As for the first time
I sit, draw down the sheets,
Turn them slowly
Like the first page
Of a sacred book.

They say I am the shadow
Of Juan Francisco,
I have purified their home,
Brought back life.

On winter nights
I give in to chilled air,
Wrap myself in his blankets,
Breathe deeply,
Watch my breath disappear
Like an exiled son.

THE PATIO

It is
So narrow
It fills
With palta
Leaves
Overnight,
Rarely
Holds
A thin
Strip
Of sun.
She comes
Then, black
Shift, broom,
Can of water,
To care
For three
Plants,
Her husband
And son
Who was
Swept away
During the
First days.
She knows
Tomorrow
May bring
Another
Month of
No light,
That her
Plants dig
Deeper
Into earth,
And cannot
Blossom.

EYE FOR AN EYE

For Ellen Catherine

I keep trying to see the tricycle,
its color, if I ever fell
as I sat looking up at her
long legs, her dark hair, her quick
movements, the energy. I was three
when red roses climbed the chimney stone,
too young to know the smell
weighs as much as the vision.
I was nothing but eyes
seeing her every step,
as I pumped my legs in pursuit of her
to feel the comfort of her presence.
I couldn’t have known
what I felt for my young mother
whose beauty must have taken
my father suddenly down,
whose face from then
is all but gone in her old age
except the sparks of blue
that still turn my head her way.
Had I the eye then that I have now
I might remember the tricycle
matching the roses, the tingle of my skin
at her touch, the first breath
of love she bore in me.

DAVID A. PETREMAN

DAVID A. PETREMAN, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, is also a published poet whose work can be found in many well-known literary journals in the U.S. and Canada. His poetry has won both local and national awards. He has recently completed a collection of poems called Traveling to the Tenth Region about his experiences during five different trips to Chile and is looking for a publisher. Some of these poems can be found on a Chilean website dedicated to human rights (http://members.xoom.com/grimaldi/index.htm) as well as in a number of literary journals. In addition to his own poetry, Petreman has translated the work of several Chilean poets. A bilingual edition of a book by Marino Muñoz Lagos called Los rostros de la lluvia/The Faces of Rain is due out soon. Petreman gives readings in the area, mostly at bookstores. One of the poems, “Eye for An Eye,” just won first place in a competition sponsored by the Dayton and Montgomery County Library. [ ]
Wright State’s Women’s Studies Program

Giving Voice to Women

In high school, Alicia Speed’s classmates voted her the most likely to save the world and the most likely to start a war. “I was very outspoken about my convictions,” she explains, which included environmental and animal rights issues. “And I would always stand up for women in my school, even for those I didn’t know.”

An introductory women’s studies class she took her freshman year at Wright State helped channel those seemingly paradoxical traits into an area of academic study where differing views are welcomed and encouraged.

“This class was food for the soul,” says Speed about the course. Approaches to Women’s Studies. “It sparked a fire in me that had been waiting to burn. I now have a driving force to guide me through my college years. It opened doors to my future.”

The course also opened doors to her major: the global gender studies track in International Studies. The course also serves as a gateway into other undergraduate degree options offered by the Women’s Studies Program in the College of Liberal Arts.

As for her future after Wright State, Speed says her major will provide the tools to help improve the status of women in poverty, especially in Third World countries. “This is what I want to do with the rest of my life,” she says. “I want more than a job. I want to do something I enjoy and believe in.”

An Epiphany

Anne Sisson Runyan, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and director of women’s studies, says that students who take the introductory women’s studies courses often experience an epiphany like Speed’s. “Women’s studies is not just about reclaiming and validating women’s experiences and contributions in all fields of study,” she says. “It’s also about how gender—the idea of what constitutes femininity and masculinity—lies at the core of the human experience and how we know and understand the world, from what goes into the history books, to one’s role in political and economic systems, to even how products used in our everyday lives are produced and designed.”

Runyan explains that in addition to placing women at the center of scholarly inquiry, women’s studies also studies men and supports the idea that “the rising of women also means the rising of us all.”

An Interdisciplinary Approach

The heart of the Women’s Studies Program is a broad-based interdisciplinary curriculum. Spanning across five colleges, it includes over 80 courses taught by 35 affiliated faculty in their home departments.

“It’s a true liberal arts education in the classical sense,” says Runyan.

The program includes a women’s studies minor, a women’s studies option in the selected studies major, certificate programs for undergraduate and graduate students, and the global gender studies track in the international studies major. Plans are underway to institute a free-standing women’s studies major by 2001.

A Male Point of View

Since women studies was instituted as a formal program in the spring of 1997, between 800 and 1,000 students sign up each year for designated women’s studies courses, most at the upper division and graduate levels. Up to 20 percent have been males, including Jason Dennison (99 B.S. Ed).

“As a nontraditional male student in a women’s studies course, I came to acknowledge my own preset ideas about
women,” he says. “It was a wakeup call about how my mindset and my actions influenced my friendships and relationships.” One book he read for a class had a big impact: the classic feminist treatise by Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique. “It gave me a whole new respect for my mother and grandmother who were very traditional housewives. I feel I have greater understanding for what it was like for them, for the sacrifices they made.”

A Community Initiative

The idea for a Women’s Studies Program at Wright State began in 1990 with a call from women in the local community. As a result, then President Paige Mulhollan established a Task Force on the Status of Women, which recommended in 1993 that Wright State establish both a women’s center and a women’s studies program. The WSU Women’s Center was established in February 1993 to serve as a resource and support for women on campus and to facilitate the creation of the women’s studies program. After a national search, Runyan was selected to develop and direct the new program in 1996.

Formerly the director of women’s studies at The State University of New York at Potsdam, Runyan holds a Ph.D. in international relations from The American University in Washington, D.C.

Last fall, WSU President Kim Goldenberg presented the Women’s Studies Program with the 1999 President’s Award for Outstanding Unit.

A Real-Life Education

An option in the Women’s Studies Program is a field experience class coordinated through the Women’s Center. “Women’s studies seeks to encourage activism to bring about social change,” says Kelli Byrne, center director. “Out-of-classroom projects link theory to practice and provide a way for students to take social action on and off campus.”

Locally, internships have included working for Planned Parenthood; Womanline, a counseling service for women; and Artemis House, which works with batterers and victims of domestic abuse. Other students have pursued internships through the Washington Center Program, based in Washington, D.C., working at sites such as the Congressional Budget Office, the National Museum for Women in the Arts, and the National Association of Policy Making.

Why Women’s Studies?

Although women’s studies has been accepted as a formal area of scholarly study since the 1960s, Runyan says there are still misperceptions about its value and academic rigor.

“The classes require extensive writing and the use of critical and analytical thinking skills that can be used throughout a lifetime,” she says.

“It’s also a perfect complement to any professional degree and can help students become better lawyers, doctors, nurses, counselors, human resource professionals, journalists, engineers, and teachers. “The list goes on,” she says. “But just as important, it requires asking a lot of hard questions, a willingness to examine one’s own personal life. Women’s studies gets to the heart of our identities. It changes lives.”

The Women’s Center

Established in 1993, the WSU Women’s Center serves as a central contact for support and resources for women, both on campus and in the community at large.

“The Women’s Center puts into action the university’s commitment to creating an environment where women receive equal opportunities and are empowered to use their talents to their fullest extent,” says Kelli Byrne, director.

Located in 060 Rike Hall, the center provides a meeting place for groups of various interests, serves as an information clearinghouse on gender and women’s issues, creates and facilitates professional development activities on gender-related issues for faculty and staff, and hosts programs and workshops on women’s issues.

“It’s important to me that everyone, regardless of their needs, issues, or political positions, feel comfortable coming to the center,” says Byrne.

The Women’s Center also works collaboratively with the Women’s Studies Program, finding and coordinating community outreach projects.

“In essence, the Women’s Center puts into practice the theories and research that are shared in the classroom,” says Byrne.

For more information, contact the Women’s Center at 775-4524.

Projects Sponsored by Women’s Studies

Lecture Series—brings in cutting edge feminist scholars from many disciplines

Program Fund—raises funds for special projects and supports Awards Program; plans call for raising funds for women studies scholarships

Awards Program—presented annually to outstanding Women’s Studies students, faculty members, and friends who have helped raise the status of women on or off campus

Research Project—“The Status of Women in the Miami Valley.” A joint project of WSU’s Center for Urban and Public Affairs and women’s studies faculty; the study is the first of its kind in the Miami Valley that will focus on the status of area women

Web site—http://hypatia.wright.edu/wms/wmsprgms.htm; includes regular updates about Women’s Studies programs, events, and announcements

For more information, contact the Women’s Center at 775-4524.
oooh-weee, child! You’re gonna be an artist!” announced passersby as a young Willis “Bing” Davis sat on the sidewalk in his Dayton neighborhood, drawing on a homemade canvas of brown grocery sack paper. Their declarations foretold a lifetime of involvement in arts education and advocacy in the African American community for the now internationally renowned artist.

Fifty years later, passers by now peer through the glass windows of Davis’ new studio in the Creative Arts Center at Wright State, where he fills canvases—and the minds of undergraduate students—with the vibrancy of African American culture.

Davis joins Wright State’s African and African American Studies program for the winter and spring quarters as its first visiting scholar, advising and instructing students in art and art history classes. “We are delighted to have a scholar with Professor Davis’ background as our first visiting scholar. His presence enriches our program and sets it off on solid footing,” says Paul Griffin, program director.

Davis brings to Wright State a wealth of knowledge about Africa’s social and aesthetic traditions he amassed during 10 trips to Africa and China.

“In 1966 as a high school art teacher, I stopped teaching art and began teaching people,” says Davis, who has drawn on his life experiences during his long career to advance students’ understanding of other cultures and to help them discover their own sources of inspiration.

Davis is known throughout the world for his embodiment of African American culture. His mixed-media work, photography, sculpture, and drawings are an exploration of the culture and history that have impacted African Americans and his personal life. In his art, Davis melds the spirituality, rituals, and rites of passage he witnessed during his pilgrimages to Africa to the urban experiences of African Americans.

“I draw spiritual and visual inspiration from the imagery seen in the patterns of ceremonial robes and in the rhythms of dancers and drums,” says Davis, who infuses those visual elements in a series of drawings called Ancestral Spirit Dance. Pieces in his Urban Masks and Urban Spirit Vessel series serve as social commentary, combining modern found objects with ancient African values and imagery to bridge two continents.

Since 1959 Davis has taught students of all ages in Dayton Public Schools and at Depauw, Miami of Oxford, and Central State Universities. Hundreds of students have studied under his watchful eye and gestural hand. In an African American art history class at Wright State, Davis maintains an open dialogue with students on topics ranging from Native American and African influences to the impact of historical events like the Middle Passage.
The African and African American Studies Program

The introduction of Willis “Bing” Davis as the first visiting scholar in African and African American Studies at Wright State kicks off an initiative to expand the program and bring in experts from a variety of liberal arts academic disciplines.

“This is an already dynamic program with close ties to the African American community. Many courses draw from the knowledge of Dayton-area experts,” says Paul Griffin, program director. “The addition of the visiting scholars program will enable us to attract nationally and internationally renowned African and African American scholars to the campus.”

The African and African-American Studies minor at Wright State promotes an understanding of African humanity, heritage, and contributions to world civilization, while encouraging the development of a global view that is essential for living in an increasingly multicultural society. Through the College of Liberal Arts, the program draws from course offerings in history, sociology, economics, religion, literature, and the visual and performing arts. This interdisciplinary program offers students a unique opportunity for academic and personal enrichment.

The program also requires 100 hours of field experience during the senior year for students to integrate their coursework in a practical application of their knowledge.

Damon Lane, a senior history major, says he takes courses offered through the program to gain an understanding of African American culture “so when I am involved with local and state governments during my career I can initiate programs like this one in other schools and in communities.”

Many graduates of the program go onto further education, often to grad school to become educators themselves. “We equip students to go on as teachers of black history in a variety of disciplines, whether it be in a school setting or in government agencies,” says Griffin.

To learn more about the African and African-American Studies minor and its course offerings, contact: Paul Griffin, program director, at (937) 775-5532.

“What makes this class so thrilling is Professor Davis’ knowledge of art and its historic and cultural value through various periods,” says Damon Lane, a senior history major. “We learn from his diverse experiences, and from Wright State’s and Professor Davis’ combined resources.”

Davis is equally lauded for his community involvement. Known as “the pied piper of community,” he has served as vice-chair of the Ohio Arts Council, appointed by Governor George Voinovich in 1988, and as national president of the National Conference of Artists. In 1999 he created individual art for the Wright-Dunbar Prize awarded at the 1999 Global Youth Peace and Tolerance Awards. Davis now serves as a board member for the DeCapo Foundation of Dayton, which coordinates the annual awards with the United Nations. Most recently Davis represented Ohio at the United States’ first National Summit on Africa in Washington in February.

In 1996, Davis was named Ohio Art Educator of the Year by the Ohio Art Education Association, and in 1997 earned the Faculty of Distinction Award in Teaching for Creative Research and Community Service at Central State University.

Davis’ artwork has garnered numerous international accolades: he served as a visiting artist at the Panafest ’94 Festival in Ghana, Africa; at Kyoto Seika University in Kyoto, Japan; at the Savannah College of Art and Design; at the China National Museum People to People Program; and at the Smithsonian Institution. His artwork can be found in the personal collections of Bill and Camille Cosby; President and Mrs. George Bush; Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kegerreis; State Senator Rhine McLin; Dr. Jocelyn Elders; and President Nelson Mandela of Africa.

“I’m happy to be working in my element here,” says Davis, kneading clay for a new spiritual vessel in his studio in the Creative Arts Center. “I’m excited about inaugurating the visiting scholars program in African and African American Studies.”

“I’m amazed at the diversity Wright State students bring to the classroom; it fosters rich and diverse discussion,” says Davis. “Already the students are integrating this subject material with the other classes that comprise the program. At a time when society is becoming increasingly multicultural, Wright State is really enabling these students to develop a global view.” That global view is an artistic and cultural vision the students see through Davis’ eyes.
WSU’s Pre-College Programs
Not Just Another Summer Camp

In a microbiology lab in Wright State’s Biomedical Sciences building, students in white lab coats listen with rapt attention as an instructor shows them how to heat fix glass microscope slides containing samples of bacteria. “These are real experiments,” says seventh-grader Meghan McNerney. “I definitely want to be a scientist, and Science Quest is the closest I’ve gotten to actually tinkering around with beakers and bottles.”

Each summer Wright State buzzes with the inquisitive energy of pint-size, pre-college students like McNerney who are participating in Ohio’s most comprehensive set of enrichment programs offered by state higher-education institutions. Close to 1,500 young people in grades K–12 come to Wright State each summer for three distinctive programs: Discovery, pre-college residential camps, residential institutes for college credit, and the Ohio Summer Honors Institutes.

Coordinated by the Office of Pre-College Programs, the programs are quite different from traditional summer camp fare. “This is a real learning experience,” says Brenda Dewberry, Pre-College Programs director. “We have a structured environment, with courses designed to focus on specific skills. They are fun and exciting, but they also have depth and stimulate students’ learning and thinking.”

“Discovery,” a summer academic enrichment opportunity for students in grades K–9, encourages creativity and critical thinking in close to 90 weeklong course offerings. At the K–2 level last year, subjects ranged from kitchen chemistry and theatre games to Spanish and Dr. Seuss. A variety of courses at the 2–4 level included medieval folklore, art, building bridges, and publishing a newspaper. Students in grades 4–6 explored the functions of the brain, learned the basics of video production, or created their own sculpture. Course offerings for grades 7–9 featured an exploration of government and mock trials, storytelling, photography, and computer software programs.

Though Discovery is geared towards motivated students, a few young people develop positive attitudes towards learning as a result of their experiences in the courses.

“Discovery can do wonders for the shy little ones,” says Lulla Bell, a self-described “professional smile-maker” who last year climbed into her homemade costume daily at 5:00 a.m. to prepare to teach her “Advanced Clowning” camp during Discovery ’99. With an arsenal of balloon animals and several tricks up her sleeve, Lulla Bell coached fourth, fifth, and sixth graders in devising their own characters, complete with original clown antics, gags, magic tricks, costumes, and cartoons. “The kids build self-esteem as they express themselves verbally, colorfully, and imaginatively. The skills they acquire or improve are basic, interpersonal skills, but they are vital at this age.”

For more advanced students in grades 7–12, the Office of Pre-College programs offers a series of experiential, residential camps and institutes. Topics last year included advanced biology, creative writing, journalism, theatre arts, nontraditional medicine, and television. Students spend 6–8 hours each day in courses taught by Wright State faculty and staff, and are housed in The Woods residence complex.

The Ohio Summers Honors Institutes this year will offer gifted and talented students intensive instruction in creative writing, technical theatre, law and society, and performance theatre. Students will work with published authors, argue law cases before a jury of peers, and produce and perform in a full-length play.

Pre-College Programs also offers opportunities for students to continue their experiences throughout the academic year. The Saturday Enrichment program,
with great ambition. For those in primary school, it helps to plant the higher education seed.” Some students participate in the programs during elementary and secondary school, earn college and high school credit simultaneously in the post-secondary program, and eventually matriculate into Wright State as college students. “Other universities don’t have that kind of continuity,” says Dewberry.

Course design and instruction for the summer programs and SAIL is a community effort, drawing from Dayton-area certified teachers, field professionals, and Wright State faculty, as well as undergraduate students who earn practicum credit towards a degree in education. “The quality of our programs truly rests on the quality of our instructors,” says Dewberry. Potential instructors submit course proposals that are carefully evaluated for their content, resources, and compatibility with the programs’ mission. A new community advisory board provides input on program content and future initiatives. “We are constantly monitoring educational trends and looking at our strengths and weaknesses so that our course offerings are on the cutting-edge,” says Dewberry.

Discovery 2000 features new additions to its traditional line-up, including courses in technology and the internet, several new art and science courses, and special sections for gifted and talented students. The residential programs have added “Exploring Movement” in conjunction with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company; “Calculus Quest;” “Communicating with Confidence;” and a debate institute.

For more information on Discovery 2000, the Ohio Summer Honors Institute, Saturday Enrichment, SAIL, and summer residential camps, contact the Office of Pre-College Programs at (937) 775-2420.
“Mini-Med is a natural extension of our mission to serve as a community resource, and our faculty and students welcome the opportunity to work with community members,” explained Dr. Howard M. Part, dean of the School of Medicine. “The enthusiasm exhibited by participants in this program tells us that we are providing valuable information and a needed service.”

The University of Colorado School of Medicine is credited with holding the first mini-med school in 1988. Although many medical educators were skeptical about the public demand for such a program, almost all of the 80-some medical schools that have since launched one have had more than enough applicants to fill all available seats.

“The public has a genuine interest in science, particularly biomedicine,” said Dr. Bruce Fuchs, director of the National Institutes of Health Office of Science Education, in the mini-med school guidebook his office provides to medical schools. “The philosophy behind mini-med school is to encourage this interested, yet uninformed, public hungry for a better understanding of modern medical advances.

More than a hundred people from all walks of life, ranging from their teens to their 70s, jumped at the chance to sit in the same lecture hall where Wright State medical students learn about the basic science of medicine. After listening raptly to medical school faculty lecture on subjects like anatomy, neuroscience, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry, and molecular biology, they eagerly poured into the teaching labs for “hands-on” demonstrations of the concepts they’d learned.
audience questions for almost an hour. While about half the audience had moved on to the lab to see some of the microbes and parasites he’d discussed, almost as many had stayed behind to listen.

“I am still a high school student, so I was afraid he would present the information in a manner that would make the lecture boring and hard to understand,” wrote one participant on the evaluation form. “That was not the case at all. I found it to be very informative and well presented.”

Dr. Frank Nagy, professor of anatomy and director of the Anatomical Gift Program, drew oohs and ahs and peals of laughter from those who heard his talk on “Human Anatomy: Variations on a Glorious Theme.” Many seemed both startled and gratified to learn that there really is no such thing as a “normal” human being. One participant — the parent of a medical student — noted that Nagy’s lecture “makes me appreciate all that medical students are required to learn.”

Dr. Steven J. Berberich, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, used analogies to help explain the complex role and function of DNA in cloning, cancer, and DNA “fingerprinting.” “It’s very refreshing to have such an educated individual explain a complex subject in layman’s terms,” a participant wrote.

Dr. Robert E. W. Fyffe, professor of anatomy and director of the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. Program, gave a brief history of breakthroughs in understanding the human brain and followed up with a glimpse into his research on how nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord communicate with one another. Several participants wrote in their evaluations of his session that the only thing they didn’t like about it was that it was the last one in the series.

“There were two really good things about these classes that I think everyone noticed: they were taught by people who were not only very knowledgeable, but were ‘user friendly’ too,” said Gerry Coen, R.N., a Wright State Student Health Services nurse. “Nothing was taught above our heads. Along with this, the handouts and the lab experiences they had set up were very enriching. There were great people there to make the evening worthwhile. On the whole, I would give the whole four weeks an ‘A’ plus.”

The School of Medicine offered its first mini-med school program last May as part of the school’s 25th anniversary celebration. A Saturday afternoon event for families, it attracted almost 200 people, including at least 50 children under 14. More than 20 medical students from the school’s Student-to-Student group offered health education classes for children while faculty members presented lectures and directed labs geared toward teens and adults.

To sign up to receive mailings about future programs of this kind, call the School of Medicine Office of Public Relations at 775-2951.

(1) A participant looks at a display featuring horizontal cross sections of a human brain, which were labeled to identify the brain’s different structures.

(2) A high school student examines a sealed petri dish that contains a growing microorganism that causes human disease.

(3) Dr. Robert E. W. Fyffe explains the complex structure of the human brain.

(4) Tillie Ligget, a graduate student in microbiology and immunology who assisted with the lab demonstrations, explains the characteristics of a tape worm.
Wright State alumni make a difference! And the Alumni Association continued its tradition of recognizing their achievements as part of its homecoming festivities at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner and Dance, held Friday, February 11, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center. More than 100 dined and danced to the sounds of a fantastic band, the Palace Players. This year the Wright State University Alumni Association recognized three deserving alumni in the categories of Volunteer Service, Recent Graduate, and Distinguished Alumni Achievement.

“The Alumni Association is proud of the accomplishments of its membership and of their continued support of the university through these accomplishments,” says Mike Reynolds, president. Their stories and photos, which were taken during the awards presentation portion of the evening, are on the following pages.
Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is the association’s most prestigious award. Established in 1983, it is presented annually to a Wright State graduate who possesses the highest character and integrity and has attained a significant level of achievement in his or her chosen field. The recipient must also have demonstrated a positive impact on a local, state, or national/international level. This year’s recipient is Robin Moore-Cooper.

Robin earned an Associate of Arts in liberal arts from Sinclair Community College in 1982, a B.A. in psychology in 1985, and a master in rehabilitation counseling (severe disabilities) in 1990 from Wright State University. She is a research fellow at Ohio State University, where she is working on her doctorate in rehabilitation services with an emphasis in higher education and student affairs.

Robin not only is an outstanding alumna, she also served Wright State as a dedicated employee for nearly 10 years, first in the Office of Disability Services and then as assistant director for the Office of Admissions. She is currently the coordinator of the Office of Disability Services at Sinclair Community College.

Robin’s commitment to serving individuals with disabilities and advocating educational and personal growth extends beyond the confines of her job. Because of her expertise in post-secondary education, she consistently responds to community, church, family, and friends’ concerns related to college. She is a member of numerous professional organizations and is currently serving on the Ohio Post-secondary Educators Consortium on Disabilities and is involved with the Association on Higher Education and Disabilities. She also serves as post-secondary transition liaison to Miami Valley area school districts. Because of her interest in area youth, she also sits on the Sinclair Community College Young Scholars Program Advisory Board.

Robin’s contributions have been recognized by others in the community as well. In 1997, she received the Dayton Daily News Publisher’s Award and was selected to receive Sinclair Community College’s Americans with Disability Act Outstanding Service Award. She also has been honored as an “Outstanding Teacher” by Wilberforce University.

“We recognize Robin Moore-Cooper for her significant contributions in the areas of rehabilitation and disability services, community service, and support of Wright State University,” says Karen Wolf, past president and chair of the Recognition Committee. “The standards of integrity and professionalism she exhibits have earned her the respect of her colleagues, associates, and the university community. We are proud that she is a graduate of Wright State University. She clearly embodies the qualities of leadership and dedication deserving of this award.”

In her acceptance of the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, Robin commented on her desire to help students succeed.

“It has been the driving force behind my pursuit of higher education and excellence,” she said. “My education at Wright State University gave me the skills to make a difference in my field.”

President Goldenberg with the family and friends of Robin Moore-Cooper
Recent Graduate Award

The Recent Graduate Award recognizes the accomplishments of a Wright State alumna or alumnus who has graduated in the last 10 years. These accomplishments include excelling in the various aspects of life after college including their professional career, volunteer service, and/or professional and service organizations. This year’s recipient is Eric J. Sedwick, who earned his B.A. in psychology in 1995.

Eric is currently an executive recruiter with Interim Executive Recruiting. In November of 1997, Eric passed the Certified Personnel Consultant exam with an excellent score. This year, he has achieved over $150,000 in billings and was awarded the prestigious diamond ring, given only to the company’s top sales professionals.

Despite his challenging career, Eric has found the time to volunteer in a mentoring program at Kinder Elementary School that matches at-risk children with caring adults who offer guidance and friendship. Eric has been a mentor with the program for three years.

In her nomination of Eric, Kelli Drummond gives further insight into his character. She states that “in addition to his outstanding professional accomplishments and giving back to the community, Eric is a single Dad. I see a man who gives his all in less-than-ideal circumstances. I have personally witnessed his struggles, and I know that it is not easy for him. Yet somehow, Eric maintains a positive attitude, giving his best effort to every aspect of his life—never complaining or wallowing in self-pity, but moving forward and striving for excellence.”

In accepting the award, Eric introduced and thanked his family—his parents came from Florida and his brother and sister-in-law from Georgia to share the honor with him. He also thanked his nominator, Kelli Drummond, and his daughter, Danielle, for being an inspiration and teaching him valuable lessons he would not have otherwise learned.

Happy Birthday ROWDY!

The Alumni Association helped fans celebrate Rowdy’s second birthday as WSU’s wolf mascot at the Wisconsin-Milwaukee basketball game on January 20. Rowdy received a birthday cake, a big card, and a bone. Also, the event included a coloring contest in which winners won autographed team balls.

Upcoming Events

Look for these upcoming Alumni Association events:

May 3—Home buying seminar
June 3—Family Fun Bike Ride
Call 775-2620 for more information.
Volunteer Service Award

The Volunteer Service Award is presented to a graduate whose continued significant donation of time and talent has contributed to the progress and development of the Wright State University Alumni Association. This year’s recipient for volunteer service is Jerry Stump. Jerry retired last year after 34 years of dedicated service from Delphi Harrison, where he was general supervisor of manufacturing.

He earned his B.S. in management in 1975 and since then has been a tireless advocate of Wright State University and the Alumni Association. A lifetime member, he has served as both its treasurer and president. Jerry was also one of the first volunteers for Wright State’s Corporate Appeal, and, over the six years that he participated, helped raise thousands of dollars for various WSU programs and scholarships.

As if that weren’t enough, Jerry and his wife, Maribeth, have raised a second generation of Wright State alumni. Son Jeremy graduated just last December, and daughter Elizabeth is a current WSU student. Another son, Ben, is currently attending Sinclair Community College. Jerry has most recently served as the chair of the 1999–2000 Parents Fund Campaign. His community activities include serving his community through 15 years with the Boy Scouts and most recently as a volunteer at St. Vincent’s, a shelter for the homeless in Dayton.

“The Wright State University Alumni Association thanks Jerry for his undying support and willingness to share his time and talent with us,” says Karen Wolf, past president and chair of the Recognition Committee. “We are honored to recognize him as the first ever recipient of the Volunteer Service Award.”

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, 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 (or through our installment plan of eight quarterly payments of $75.00)

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.
Phyllis Brzozowska
Named Executive Director of
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF GREAT DANCE

By Connie Steele

When the pressures of leading one of the premier contemporary dance companies in the nation gets to be too much, Phyllis Brzozowska (84 B.A.) takes a short walk down the hall from her office in downtown Dayton’s Metropolitan Arts Center to the dance studio where the dancers are in the final hour of a long and grueling rehearsal day.

“I get a thrill watching these dancers—these extraordinary talents—rehearse,” she says. “It gets me closer to the artists and rejuvenates my excitement about being a part of it all.”

Last spring, Brzozowska was named executive director of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC). One of the first hurdles she had to conquer was the unexpected death of its founder, Jeraldyn Blunden, after just a few months on the job.

“No one ever, ever expected that we would lose Jeraldyn,” says Brzozowska. “It’s a great loss, but the organization she founded is strong enough to live on. I feel fortunate that I did get to work with her for a short while.”

The roots of DCDC go back to the early 1960s when Blunden started teaching dance classes in a west side community center. Today DCDC garners national and international acclaim for its artistic excellence and extensive repertory. Among the honors Blunden has received are a 1994 McArthur Genius Award and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Wright State in 1997.

Blunden’s passing makes Brzozowska the senior arts administrator in Dayton, a title that started over 20 years ago when she cofounded CITYFOLK, which has grown into Ohio’s only full-time professional presenter of traditional and ethnic performing arts. By the time Brzozowska retired from CITYFOLK in 1998, the organization had grown to serve over 100,000 people a year with such diverse programming as concerts by Brazilian and Celtic artists; workshops on Greek and Appalachian dance and African dance and drumming; and a popular jazz series. CITYFOLK was also the driving force in bringing the National Folk Festival to Dayton in 1996 for a three-year run.

Coming to work with an arts icon like Blunden was an exciting new direction in her career, says Brzozowska.

“We were a good fit,” she says. “We worked well together because I had been a founder too. I understood the emotional investment that a founder has. I had the same kind of dedication to CITYFOLK. In
this job, I’m relieved of the pressures that a founder feels. I can be more detached and keep my personal identity separate from my role in the organization. Here, I’m not DCDC, I’m just one of the team.”

Brzozowska says her main goal is to help DCDC go through the transition of being a founder-led organization into a community institution.

“I also know how painful it is for the founder to lead an organization through the transitions that need to happen if it is to grow,” she explains. “My role is to help guide the company in creating a strategic business foundation that can support the artistic excellence established by Jeraldyne and the dancers.”

A native of Dayton and the oldest of eight siblings, Brzozowska’s interest in folk music was honed while attending college for a year in Krakow, Poland. In addition to connecting with the cultural roots of her ancestors, she also became good friends with a fellow student from the British Isles who introduced her to Celtic music.

“It was a very formative experience for me,” she says. “It was my first time away from home. I met students from all over the world and was exposed to a lot of different cultures.”

Upon her return home in 1976, she put her new found interest in folk music to work by hosting a Celtic program for a local public radio station. Then, in 1980, while juggling the demands of a full time job and majoring in communication at Wright State, she and some friends got the idea of starting an organization that promoted the multicultural traditions of the Miami Valley. The result was CITYFOLK. In 1984, the same year she graduated from Wright State, she was named CITYFOLK’s first executive director and a year later had secured enough grant money to fund her position full time.

Throughout her career in arts management, Brzozowska has tapped into her alma mater’s tradition of graduating students ready to appear on the professional stage.

“When I was at CITYFOLK, the dance faculty at Wright State was eager to have our artists conduct guest residencies. They wanted their students to have as much exposure to as wide a range of experiences as possible.”

In addition, Wright State students have a tradition of being major players in DCDC’s second company, which serves to train younger preprofessional dancers, according to Debbie Blunden, daughter of Jeraldyne and assistant artistic director.

“We have a lot of WSU dance students in the second company. By the time they graduate, the dancers are usually ready to go into DCDC’s first company or into another paid professional company anywhere in the country.”

Adds Brzozowska, “In February, which is a peak performance month, the students are under a lot of pressure to rehearse and perform, as well as keep up with their class work. It takes a lot of discipline and dedication to meet the challenge of maintaining a balance between performing and their academic commitments.”

In her new job, Brzozowska is striving for balance too—something that eluded her during the early years of CITYFOLK when her dedication to the fledging organization consumed almost every waking hour.

“I don’t know why I had such a passion for it. I think people are just given passion—it’s grace—it just comes out and grabs you. You get this vision and this desire and you just have to go with it. It’s something I could not do.”

A new partnership with Wright State was announced in January entitled Can Do, Can Dance. The program will encompass summer dance workshops and dance classes for at-risk youths at various locations, including the community center in west Dayton where Blunden first conducted her class more than 40 years ago.

“It’s getting back to DCDC’s community roots,” says Brzozowska.

And watching the dancers wind down from a full day’s rehearsal, it’s not surprising that she reflects on the vision that guided Blunden during those early days.

“Her point was not only to create great dancers. Her desire was to help those kids become great people.”
Alumni Association Theatre Scholarship

The WSU Alumni Association has contributed $100,000 over a four-year period to establish a scholarship in the theatre department. The Alumni Association Scholarship Fund for Theatre was established based on the Association’s wish to fund programs that promote pride in and recognition of Wright State University and its graduates. Mike Reynolds, president of the WSU Alumni Association, said, “The Alumni Association is thrilled to support the Theatre Arts department and its students. With great pride we can point to the national recognition and prestigious awards they have earned. Their accomplishments at the American College Theatre Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., are well documented.”

Interim AVP for Public Affairs Named

Robert E. Hickey Jr., a partner at Thompson Hine & Flory LLP, was named interim assistant vice president for public affairs. Hickey’s law practice focused on state government and legislative, administrative, and regulatory law. From 1983 to 1992 he represented the Dayton 39th District in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Prized Woodwind Donated to Department of Music

Val Hattemer, a retired accountant for the Elder Beerman Company, donated a $22,000 contra bass clarinet to the Department of Music. The instrument, according to Randall Paul, assistant professor of music, is one of only 100 produced each year, and Wright State is one of a few universities worldwide to own one.

Earlier this year, Hattemer established a four-year woodwind scholarship to the Department of Music. He has also agreed to help fund the Wind Symphony’s trip to Matsusaka, Japan, in June, where the band will perform four concerts at the invitation of the Matsusaka International Friendship Association.

Dan Duval Honored by Robbins & Myers Scholarship

Robbins & Myers, Inc., has created the Daniel W. Duval Endowed Scholarship to honor the former chair of the WSU Board of Trustees. Duval was the president and chief executive officer of Robbins & Myers from 1986 to 1998. Robbins & Myers, headquartered in Dayton, is an international manufacturer of fluid management products and systems for the process industries.

The scholarship will be available to incoming freshmen. A minimum award of $1,000 will be made each year beginning in the fall of 2000. Awards will be rotated between the College of Engineering and Computer Science and the College of Business and Administration.

Applications for the scholarship may be made to the Office of Financial Aid between January 1 and March 1.

Foundation Board Announces New Officers and Members

The WSU Foundation Board of Trustees has announced its new officers and new board members for 1999–2000. Chairing the foundation is Robert W. Nutter, managing partner of Nutter Enterprises. Other board officers are K. Douglas Deck, president and CEO of Good Samaritan Hospital and Health Center, vice chair; M. Christina Manchester, professional volunteer, secretary; and Jerome P. Sutton, retired director of the Acquisition Support Team, Air Force Materiel Command, treasurer.

New trustees include Michael Di Flora, senior vice president for engineering, Tecumseh Products; David Lower, vice president for marketing and sales, Southdown, Inc.; Christopher M. McAttee, CFO of the Brower Insurance Agency; and Malte von Matthiessen, CEO of YSI, Inc.

2000 Corporate Appeal Campaign Kicks Off

The WSU annual Corporate Appeal Campaign will begin with a kick-off celebration on April 18 at Country Club of the North. Chairman Richard Wegmann (82 M.B.A.), Chairman and CEO of BusinessLabs, will be leading a team of over 60 volunteers through a $1,200,000 corporate fundraising campaign. Wegmann is joined in leading the campaign by chair-elect Ronald D. Amos, president, Firstar, Dayton Region.

Heritage Societies Gala

Bob and Marcia Mills received their award from President Kim Goldenberg for attaining a new level of giving at the October 9, 1999, Heritage Societies Gala.
Navigating the Water of Community Development

Dayton may not have a port for ships, but thanks to efforts of Ron Wine (89 M.B.A.) and others, it will soon have a port authority for economic development projects. As president and CEO of the Miami Valley Economic Development Coalition, Wine was a key player in promoting the port authority. He helped navigate the proposal through the sometimes-choppy waters of government approval and media scrutiny.

Developing partnerships between the public and private sectors has always been part of Wine’s work. After earning his undergraduate degree from Otterbein College, Wine worked for the Natural Areas and Scenic Rivers Division of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Wine says he “took care of a lot of land and a lot of relationships with property owners and local governments.” He found out what it took to get something done in a community.

“I learned early on how important business leaders were to the whole process,” Wine says. “A lot of business leaders are very involved and influential in their own communities.” At ODNR, Wine found that business and environmental interests could agree most of the time.

“It’s a matter of environmental people not understanding how to communicate with the private sector and vice versa,” Wine believes.

While working for the ODNR, Wine decided he wanted to increase his formal knowledge of business, so enrolled in Wright State’s M.B.A. program. That helped Wine decide to change careers. He thought about corporate public affairs or government affairs, and he eventually accepted a job with the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce while continuing his M.B.A. studies.

“What I got out of Wright State was more than just the degree,” Wine says. “It was the education and the opportunity to apply what I learned at the same time. It was very helpful while transitioning from the state to work for the Chamber and trying to understand the community and the business situation.”

Wine found his niche when he joined the new Miami Valley Economic Development Coalition in 1995. He was named president and CEO in 1999. The Coalition is a privately funded nonprofit organization dedicated to adding and retaining jobs in the Miami Valley’s core industries. These include information technology, tool and die, aerospace/defense, and automotive manufacturing. The port authority is viewed as a way to help automotive manufacturers finance new or renovated facilities within the region.

“We try to be a conduit for the business community’s involvement in setting a strategic direction for economic development in the Miami Valley,” Wine explains. The Coalition is dedicated to protecting the region’s automotive and military employment bases, while also encouraging local entrepreneurs, and helping to develop a new industry in composite materials.

The Coalition has worked with WSU in the past to help establish the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute (DAGSI), the Information Technology Research Institute (ITRI), and the engineering Ph.D. program. Wine says the Coalition is continually seeking collaborative research projects involving WSU and other colleges and universities, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and local industry.

Wine says his job combines community service with sound business practices. It’s the best of both worlds for him.

“A lot of those finance case studies that I tooled over at night directly apply when you’re figuring out how to finance a business expansion,” Wine says. “Having equity in the community is a pretty valuable experience. I never get bored with it. It’s always fun. It’s always different.”

—By John Bennett
WINNERS AT THE BALLOT BOX

A growing number of WSU alumni are giving back to their communities as elected officials. Several alumni were elected or re-elected to local leadership positions during the November 1999 elections. Most combine full-time careers with “part-time” elective office.

William Loy (99 B.A.) was elected mayor of Vandalia. Loy, finance manager for the Montgomery County Auditor’s office, is a newcomer to politics. He believes his experience in county government will help Vandalia and its neighbors plan for the future.

Dean Lovelace (82 M.S.) led the field of candidates in winning re-election to the Dayton City Commission. Lovelace earned a master’s degree from WSU in applied and social economics. First elected to the commission in 1993, Lovelace is a community leadership consultant for the University of Dayton’s Institute for Community and Neighborhood Leadership. He looks to continue efforts to revitalize Dayton neighborhoods.

Another newcomer, Pamela Sunderland (82 B.S.Ed; 88 M.S.) was elected to the Huber Heights city council. With a bachelor’s in education and a master’s in business management, Sunderland is also director of human resources and administration for the Dayton Foundation.

William Flaute (88 B.A.), a home energy specialist for The Dayton Power and Light Co., was re-elected to one of two slots on the Riverside Council.

In Brookville, Carole Imler (86 M.Ed.) was re-elected to the Village Council, where she has served since 1977. Imler is an intervention specialist at Brookville High School, and a Praxis assessor for the Ohio Department of Education. She supports a countywide plan to preserve agricultural areas “if it is proposed by a committee of equal representation of all county communities. It could be a formula based on current land area and be equitable to all communities being represented.”

Gregory A. Brush (85 B.A.) was elected Butler Township Clerk.

Debra L. Johnson (80 B.S.N.) was elected Jackson Township Trustee.

Cindy Garland (81 B.S.Ed.) was elected to the Springboro Board of Education.

CLASS OF 1976

Martha Eggers (M.Ed.) is serving the second year of a three-year term as board chair for the Illinois Council of Teachers and Mathematics at McKendree College, where she is an assistant professor of education.

Catherine Knoop (B.Ed.; 86 M.Ed.), a Laurelville Elementary School science teacher in Columbus, was selected as one of 39 of the 1999 honorees for Disney’s American Teacher Awards. Knoop was selected from the more than 75,000 nominations received by the Walt Disney Company. She was honored in the category of Elementary Specialist and was chosen as Outstanding Teacher in that category. The gala celebration and awards show featuring the winners was cablecast on Disney Channel in November.

Deborah Martin (B.Mus.), sopranos, for the Dayton Bach Society, was highlighted in Bach’s Cantata 140, “Sleepers Wake,” last October.

CLASS OF 1977

Mary Glaser Butts (B.Ed.), a third grade teacher at Grove City Monterey Elementary School in Columbus, was selected as one of 39 of the 1999 Honorees for Disney’s American Teacher Awards. Butts was selected from the more than 75,000 nominations. She was honored in the category of Team Teaching with her partner Eva Brunken. The gala celebration and awards show featuring the winners was cablecast on Disney Channel in November.

Jack Frost (M.S.) resigned as Santa Fe County hydrologist last December to accept a job with the New Mexico State Engineer’s Office.

CLASS OF 1978


Dr. John Cromer (M.S.) began a new practice, Occupational Medicine Specialists, last June.

Daniel L. Thobe (B.S.B.) was named vice president, controller and chief accounting officer, of Robards Inc. in December.

CLASS OF 1979

Roger Flint (B.S.) is founder and president of Forward Motions Inc., a company that modifies vans and cars for disabled drivers, adding hand controls, ramps, lifts, wheelchair tie-downs, and other equipment to vehicles. The company, which he started in 1977, has grown by word-of-mouth from a one-man, home-based business to a shop with seven employees and customers in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Thomas Lloyd (M.E.; 84 M.M.) has been appointed band director at Columbus State Community College in Columbus, OH. Also, Lloyd conducted at the 68th Welsh National Ganu (Singing Festival) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in September.

CLASS OF 1982

Pamela S. Sunderland (B.S.Ed.; 88 M.S.) has been named director, human resources and administration, for The Dayton Foundation.

CLASS OF 1986

Cheryl Davis (B.S.M.S.E.) has been named manager of production operations at The Timken Company’s Altavista Bearing Plant in Altavista, VA, last November.

CLASS OF 1988

Kenneth M. Stickevens (M.B.A.) is vice president of marketing, consumer business unit, for Gateway 2000 in San Diego, CA.
Stickevers was previously vice president of brand management at Gateway.

CLASS OF 1989
Erik Bork (B.F.A.), recent Emmy winner for his work on HBO’s acclaimed series From the Earth to the Moon, toured Europe last October with Tom Hanks, as they studied sites for another HBO series in the works, a 10-part adaptation of Steven Ambrose’s Band of Brothers. The series, which is scheduled for television cablecast in 2001, is a collaboration between Hanks and director Stephen Spielberg.

Rosalyn Lake (B.A.) is the new director of development at Wilferforce University. She has worked as director of corporate and annual giving at Wilberforce and, most recently, was a community relations specialist at the Reynolds & Reynolds Co. in Dayton.

Danny Voris (B.Mus.) has recently released his latest album, Moving Through the Ghosts of Trees. Voris plays regularly at Oregon Express on Wednesdays and teaches guitar at McCutcheon Music Studios in Centerville.

CLASS OF 1991
Eddie McClintock (B.A.) is co-starring with Neil Patrick Harris on the new NBC sitcom Stark Raving Mad. McClintock, who earned his degree in business communications and once sold corporate insurance in L.A., decided to try production work instead and later took classes and broke into acting. McClintock has also had a guest role on WB’s Felicity, playing McClintock has also had a guest role on WB’s Felicity, playing

CLASS OF 1992
Sandy Allen (B.S.B.) was promoted to assurance and advisory services manager at the Dayton office of Deloitte & Touche.

Robert Dell (Psy. D.) became employed by Wheeler Clinic in CT last August.

Beth Weidner (B.S.B.) has been promoted to senior in the Computer Risk Management Practice of the Dayton office of Arthur Andersen. Weidner joined Arthur Andersen in 1988 after working as an internal auditor for Dayton Power and Light for six years.

CLASS OF 1995
Barry Hassler (M.S.), founder of Hassler Communications Systems Technology Inc., received a five-year contract worth $100,000 to provide Internet connections, hardware, and installation services to the Montgomery County government. The corporation, which was founded in 1991, provides Internet services to small-medium-sized businesses. Previously, Hassler worked for eight years on networking projects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as a civilian employee and later for Control Data Corp.

CLASS OF 1996
Angela O’Connor (96 B.S.) has joined the Akron office of Roetzel & Andress, where she’ll work in the firm’s Business Litigation Practice Group.

CLASS OF 1997
1st Lt. Cherish Krutli (B.S.B.) recently became one of the 357 female pilots in the Air Force. She has graduated from the Joint Specialized Pilot Training Program at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma. Krutli was the only female pilot in the graduating class of 21. She is undergoing training on the C-9A. At the end of September, she will fly out of Yokota Air Base, Japan, piloting the C-9A Nightingale, a medical plane used to transport sick and injured military personnel. After three years, she will be assigned to fly the C-130 transport plane.

Lt. Eric S. Lovett (M.A.), Navy, made a port visit to the island of Malta last November after completing 16 days of carrier qualifications and flight operations.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE SELECTS WSU ALUMNI FOR FACULTY HONORS
Cumberland College awarded both of its 1999 Honorary Professors awards to Wright State alumni. The recipients of the awards for male and female honorary professors are selected by Cumberland’s Student Government Association.

Jolly Faught (88 M.A.) received the “Ms. Janie Hall Award,” the female faculty award, for creating vivid images to help her students enjoy the study of English. She was selected by students to receive the award for her ability to make the subject and authors seem to come alive. Faught has taught in Cumberland College’s English department for eight years.

Dr. Todd Yetter (82 B.S.; 84 M.S.) received the “Dr. John D. Broome Award,” the male faculty award, for his passion for teaching. He is a student favorite because his interest is contagious and he is “very concerned that his students enjoy and understand biology.” Yetter has taught biology at Cumberland since 1990.
Lovett was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy for a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf.

CLASS OF 1999

Kris Kropp (B.M.) joined the staff of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra as corporate and group sales manager. The position will address the growing needs of groups that want to attend the many offerings of the orchestra and smaller corporations that want to support the Philharmonic. Previously, she worked for NCR as a Y2K specialist in the NCR sales center. In addition, Kropp plays the clarinet and saxophone locally with various ensembles.

Judith M. Thompson (B.A.) has been named executive vice president, grants and administration, for The Dayton Foundation. Thompson has been with The Dayton Foundation for more than 14 years, most recently as director of grants and programs.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

This year’s homecoming events saw the start of a new tradition—the presentation of Outstanding Alumni Awards from the colleges and student organizations. This year’s awards were presented at Saturday’s pre-game alumni brunch in the Nutter Center’s Berry Room. Following are the awardees:

James F. Cannon (73 B.A.; 74 M.S.) Bolinga Cultural Resources Center

James F. Cannon serves as one of five judges for Dayton’s Municipal Court. At the age of 39, Cannon enrolled at Wright State and earned two degrees in four years, a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in social and applied economics. After graduation, Cannon worked briefly for the City of Dayton before returning to law school at the University of Dayton in 1978. His law career began in the Montgomery County Prosecutor’s Office and was followed by seven years in private practice. In 1987, Judge Cannon took the bench for the first time to complete the term of a judge who was retiring. Since that time, he has been elected to three six-year terms as a municipal court judge. Due to age restrictions, however, the term he was elected to last November will be his final term. Cannon has been recognized by numerous community and civic organizations for his professional success and his commitment to service.

Michael A. Di Flora (72 B.S.) College of Engineering and Computer Science

Michael A. Di Flora is senior vice president of product/manufacturing engineering for the Tecumseh Products Company in Tecumseh, Michigan. Prior to joining Tecumseh, Di Flora served as vice president of engineering and research for Bristol Compressors. His career in the HVAC industry spans over 22 years. In 1999, Di Flora established the Virginia Arlene Di Flora Memorial Scholarship. Named after his mother, the Di Flora scholarship awards a four-year full tuition scholarship to female Wright State students majoring in engineering or computer science. Di Flora has authored or co-authored six papers on compressor theory and has 12 patents issued or pending. He has served on the Wright State University Foundation Board. Di Flora has twice won the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers New Product Award, and is listed in Who’s Who in Science and Who’s Who in Industry.

Denise M. Elder (82 B.A.) College of Liberal Arts

Denise M. Elder is director of development for the Miami Valley Health Foundation. In her position Elder plans, develops, and implements Foundation support programs for Miami Valley Hospital. Her duties include cultivating and soliciting annual and major contributors; designing and managing direct mail campaigns; planning and executing hospital fundraising events; and recruiting, training, and mobilizing volunteer leadership. Elder’s volunteer service includes co-chairing a $3.5 million capital campaign for Precious Blood Catholic Church. Elder’s previous employment includes positions as community development manager for Greater Dayton Public Television, Inc.; advertising manager for Stargazer Productions, Inc.; and public information and special events director for the American Cancer Society of Montgomery County.

WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE PROF?

Is there a certain instructor who influenced you most while you were pursuing your degree, or was there a certain lecture you’ll never forget?

Now’s your chance to submit comments about your favorite professors! Look for quotes and anecdotes about your WSU mentors in future issues of Community!

Send your comments to Community editor, Office of Communications and Marketing, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001, or e-mail connie.steele@wright.edu. Be sure to include your name, degree, year of graduation, and how to contact you during office hours.

William K. Richey (84 B.S., 86 M.Ed.) College of Education and Human Services, College of Science and Mathematics

William K. Richey is a chemistry teacher at Xenia High School. For the past 14 years, Richey has taught the joys of science to students of all ages. Valedictorians at Xenia High School, where Richey teaches chemistry, chose him as their most influential teacher on six different occasions. For his outstanding work in the classroom and for his inspirational and motivational leadership, Richey was named the 1998 Ohio Teacher of the Year. In 1999, he was named as one of 172 winners nationally of the prestigious Milken Family Foundation Education Awards. Richey is a firm believer in hands-on science instruction and has presented courses and workshops on the local, state, and national levels. He contributed science activities for the book Teaching Solutions with Toys. Richey is a part-time instructor at Miami University, where he has contributed to the Science is Fun and the Teaching Physical Science Through Children’s Literature programs.
Barry L. Duncan  
(80 B.S.; 84 Psy.D.) 
School of Professional Psychology

Barry L. Duncan is an associate professor at Nova Southeastern University’s Department of Family Therapy and a licensed clinical psychologist in Florida. He has served as a member of the clinical faculty for both the School of Professional Psychology and the College of Education and Human Services. From 1986 to 1994 he served as director of the Dayton Institute for Family Therapy, where he developed and implemented a private training and treatment center for family therapy. He earned a post-graduate credential as an approved supervisor for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. In the area of scholarship, he has made about 35 national presentations and has published seven book reviews and more than 50 journal articles and book chapters. He is the author or co-author of 10 books. Finally, he has been a frequent guest of national talk shows, including Oprah Winfrey, The View, and Jenny Jones.

Karen L. Puterbaugh  
(93 M.U.A.) 
School of Graduate Studies

Karen L. Puterbaugh is the executive director of the Greene County Council on Aging. In that position, she provides local seniors and their families with information about how to arrange home delivered meals, adult day care, in-home and respite care, and transportation, as well as educate them on the latest changes in Medicare and Medicaid. Over the years, Puterbaugh has held many different positions in social work, from the area of adult foster care to working for protective services. At the Area Agency on Aging, Puterbaugh served for over five years as planning and training coordinator, acting as a professional educator and a liaison for Greene and Logan counties with service providers. Prior to her present position with the Council on Aging, she worked as associate director for the Alzheimer’s Association and was responsible for organizing programs and services for individuals with dementia, as well as continued education programs for nurses, administrators, other health care professionals, and the community on dementia-related topics.

David A. Gasper  
(78 B.S.B.) 
College of Business and Administration

David A. Gasper is president of Gasper Corporation, which he founded in 1983 with a $500 investment. In 1999 Gasper Corporation became a wholly owned independent subsidiary of NCR Corporation. The company headquarters is in Dayton, with additional offices throughout the United States and the world. Gasper Corporation develops and markets strategic business automation solutions for financial institutions worldwide. Gasper Corporation solutions manage automated teller machine (ATM) networks that drive over 50 percent of ATMs in the United States and 20 percent worldwide. Gasper Corporation customers include some of the largest ATM networks in the world. Gasper has chaired the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce CEO development course. In his own company, Gasper promotes Open Book Management, which allows employees to participate in a broad-based incentive plan that includes profit sharing and 401(k) contributions.

Alan W. McGee  
(79 B.S.; 82 M.D.) 
School of Medicine

Alan W. McGee is an associate of SpineONE, a division of Orthopaedics Northeast where he is part of a team of specialized physicians dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of all spinal disorders. As an alumnus of Wright State, McGee has served on the WSU Foundation Board of Trustees working diligently on the Foundation Development and University Relations Committees. In addition, he appeared in print and television advertisements for the university and served as chair of the School of Medicine Minority Scholarship Committee. McGee is also president of the Ft. Wayne Black Medical and Dental Association and he serves on the boards of Q.C. Onics Incorporated and the Fort Wayne Sports Corp. He is a member of the Ft. Wayne Medical Association, the Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society, the Martin Luther King Jr. Club, the Wright Brothers Society, the North American Spine Society, the Mid-American Orthopaedic Association, and the National Medical Honor Society.

Dianne L. Pettis  
(96 M.S.) 
College of Nursing and Health

Dianne L. Pettis serves as a family nurse practitioner for Dayton Primary and Urgent Care Center and a volunteer parish nurse at Maranatha Christian Fellowship. She established a health and wellness program at her church, Maranatha Christian Fellowship in Dayton, where she and other volunteer parish nurses provide health screenings, a speaker series on health promotion topics, health fairs, and exercise support groups for the 600-member congregation. In addition, Pettis makes contributions to her profession by serving as an adjunct professor for the WSU-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health. In the past, she has worked as an Army nurse corps officer, a pediatric private duty home care nurse, a staff nurse, a continuity of care coordinator at The Children’s Medical Center of Dayton, and a family nurse practitioner for Ohio Valley Medical Group. She has also authored or co-authored chapters in the book Plans of Care for Specialty Practice: Inpatient Pediatric Nursing. Pettis is a member of the most prestigious nursing honors society, Sigma Theta Tau.

Robert J. Sudhoff  
(77 B.S.) 
Lake Campus

Robert J. Sudhoff is vice president and chief financial officer of The Minster Machine Company. Upon graduation from Wright State, he was offered a job as an internal auditor at The Minster Machine Company and over the years has climbed the ladder to chief accountant, controller, secretary/treasurer, and vice president of finance and chief financial officer, his current position. The Minster Machine Company is one of the largest companies—among the top five in the world—that manufactures material forming machine tools and presses. With clients in Europe, South America, and Asia, The Minster Machine Company operates out of three market segments: automotive and hardware, electronic, and beverage and food containers, currently holding 85 percent of the beverage can stamping market. Sudhoff is also a board member for the Western Ohio Education Foundation (WOLF). He credits his experience at the Lake Campus with providing him the individual attention and preparation needed to complete his degree and pursue a successful career.
“WOW!” Without exception, this has been the reaction of fans, players, and passersby the first time they see the new baseball stadium, located behind the Ervin J. Nutter Center.

The newly constructed stadium, built in an old-style motif of brick and brown stone to resemble the new park for the Baltimore Orioles, features over 750 theater-type seats, a major league scoreboard, the newest in lighting systems, ample parking, restrooms, and 50-foot heated dugouts along with team rooms.

“This field will finally give the Raider baseball program a home field advantage,” WSU Athletics Director Mike Cusack says. “Our fans will now have the opportunity to come out and watch very good collegiate baseball under the lights. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Situated on what is called “Achilles Hill,” the new stadium was completed in time for the first home game of WSU’s 2000 baseball season on March 30. It was also selected to be the site for the 2000 American Family Insurance MCC Baseball Championship in mid-May. The field will also be available for rent by local teams and for tournaments held throughout the summer.

The dedication and naming of the new stadium will take place on April 12. Also honored that day will be Ron Nischwitz, a major contributor to the stadium project who is celebrating his 25th year as WSU’s head baseball coach.

The stadium was built at a cost of $2.7 million, which is being funded entirely through private donations to Wright State. Some of this funding is being generated through seat licenses in the new stadium. Purchasers of seat licenses will have their names engraved on the seats and will be entitled to use the seats for five years, receive five years of baseball season tickets, and several Wright State University baseball souvenirs. The cost of each seat license is $1,000, which is a donation to the WSU Foundation.

“We have worked diligently on this project over the years and it is gratifying to see how many people have stepped forward to support us,” Nischwitz said. “This stadium will help us climb to a higher level and will enhance our recruiting objectives. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved.”

Still in the works is the construction of a pressbox, a picnic area, additional seating, and other amenities that will round out the comforts of home for the Raiders.

The April 12 dedication will also see the Raiders take on the Indiana Hoosiers. Game time for that tilt is 6:30 p.m.

For more premium seat information, call the Athletics Department at 775-2771.

By Bob Noss

Home Field Advantage

Ron Nischwitz, head baseball coach
### Player Spotlight

#### Josh Hart  
**Senior**  
**Catcher/Infield/Outfield**  
**1999:** Made 46 starts in 47 games played...led the squad and was third in the MCC in batting average...went four for five with three RBIs against Marist, three hits versus Dartmouth, and three hits with four RBIs and three runs scored against Cornell during spring trip...hit safely in all four games of series with Cleveland State, including a three-for-three performance in the third game...collected 14 hits in 29 at bats (.483) during six-game road swing versus Pittsburgh, Ohio, and Detroit, including three hits at Ohio and seven in first two games of Detroit series...had three hits and two RBIs in win over Butler at the MCC Tournament...recorded 23 multi-hit games.

#### Kim Sycks  
**Junior**  
**Pitcher/First Base**  
**1999:** Chosen to the MCC’s Second Team...finished second in the conference in home runs per game (.13) and 10th in triples per game (.07)...in MCC pitching rankings ranked third in earned run average, fourth in wins and shutouts, and fifth in strikeouts per seven innings (4.65)...tied for the team lead in home runs and was third in triples and slugging percentage...led the Raider pitching staff in every major category...named the MCC’s Player of the Week on April 12 when she batted .619 (13 for 21) with 10 RBIs and a home run in both games at Wisconsin-Green Bay...pitched the first no-hitter in school history with three strikeouts at Loyola.

**1998:** Named to the MCC’s All-Newcomer Team, finishing sixth in the league in appearances and eighth in earned run average and innings pitched...appeared in 37 games overall with 30 starts...also made 23 appearances on the mound with 13 starts and 11 complete games.

### WSU’s Syska Wins National Woody Hayes Award

B**rian Syska,** a member of the Wright State University men’s soccer team, was named this year’s recipient of the Woody Hayes National Scholar Athlete Award given for academics, athletics, and community service.

A male and female are chosen nationally from each NCAA division and voted on by representatives from Ohio State University and the Northwest Sertoma Club.

“Brian has always been exemplary on and off the field,” WSU Athletics Director Mike Cusack said. “This is a great honor for him.”

Syska, a native of Huber Heights, Ohio, carries a 3.98 GPA in pre-med while being involved in many activities such as president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and a volunteer for Hospice of Dayton and the Raider Outreach Program, which inspires local elementary students to strive for success. Last October, Governor Taft appointed him to a two-year term as a student representative on the Wright State Board of Trustees.

The Wayne High School graduate — who led the team in scoring last year with 10 points and five goals — was named to the MCC All-Tournament Team. The 21-year-old was selected as a second-team GTE Academic All-American last year.

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**BASEBALL SCHEDULE**

**March**

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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**April**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BOWLING GREEN</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>at Dayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>at Illinois-Chicago *</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>at Toledo</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>INDIANA</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
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**May**

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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>at Cleveland State *</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>DAYTON</td>
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<tr>
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<td>at Miami</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>BUTLER *</td>
<td>6:30</td>
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<td>18–21</td>
<td>MCC TOURNAMENT (WSU)</td>
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**HOME MATCHES IN CAPS**

All Times Eastern  
# Louisville Tournament  
+ Spring Trip to Homestead, FL  
* Midwestern Collegiate Conference games
Three former student-athletes will be inducted into the Wright State University Athletics Hall of Fame at the annual All-Sports Banquet on June 4 in the Student Union. The Wright State Athletics Hall of Fame now has 34 members and is selected each year by the Varsity “W” Club, a group consisting of former Raider athletes. For consideration, an athlete must be at least five years removed from playing. This year’s inductees are:

Jon Shbrocco, a baseball player from 1990–93, holds the second-best career batting average at .386 as well as the second most hits with 261. He also set the career records for doubles (55) and walks (165) as well as the season record for triples (7). A second baseman, the Cleveland-area native was the Mid-Continent Conference Player of the Year in 1993, when he hit .395, and the Tournament MVP in 1992. He helped the Raiders to a four-year record of 153-67, including 40-15 in 1992. Shbrocco, a three-time team MVP, was drafted by the San Francisco Giants and spent six years in the minor leagues, playing in several all-star games and made it as high as Triple-A.

JoAnne Paxton, a soccer player from 1988–91, holds most of the career offensive records for Wright State, including most goals (46), most assists (21), most points (113), and most shots (196). She also owns the season records for goals (19), points (45), and shots (67) all in 1988. The Amelia, Ohio, native shares the record for most goals in a game with four against UW-Green Bay on September 8, 1991. Playing when WSU was an independent, Paxton led the Raiders to a four-year record of 43-22-5, including 12-3-2 as a freshman.

Amanda Dieter-Ihler, a swimmer from 1990–94, was the first female to represent WSU in an NCAA Division I national tournament for qualifying for the 1993 and the 1994 NCAA Meet in the 100 back and 50 and 100 freestyle. The Worthington, Ohio, native still holds the school marks for the 50 free (23.23), 100 free (50.69), and 100 back (55.91). She was also part of the relay teams that set school records in the 200 free (1:36.57), 400 free (3:29.41), 800 free (7:38.46), and the 400 medley (3:52.79).

Wright State Hall of Fame Members

1985 Don Mohr, Athletics Director (1968-81)
1986 John Ross, Head Men’s Basketball Coach (1969-75)
1987 Bob Grote, Basketball, Baseball (1973-76)
1989 Gary Monroe, Basketball (1981-83)
1990 Jodi Martin, Basketball (1980-83)
1991 Carol Westbeld, Volleyball (1979-82)
1992 Tim Begley, Wrestling (1983-86)
1993 John Shull, Cross Country (1973-76)
1996 Matt Gilmore, Head Wrestling Coach (1974-86)
1997 Margi Miniaci-Conley, Swimming/Diving (1980-84)
1998 Jennifer Horn-McDonald, Basketball (1980-83)

Three to Be Inducted Into WSU Athletics Hall of Fame

MCC Academic Standouts

Right State University placed nine student-athletes on the fall Midwestern Collegiate Conference Academic All-Conference Teams.

The MCC Academic All-Conference Teams honor student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or above with at least three complete semesters at the same institution as a starter or important reserve. Selections are made by the MCC Faculty Athletics Representatives. The teams are comprised of the same number of first-team all-MCC student-athletes in each sport.

Wright State and Loyola each had nine while UW-Milwaukee had eight recipients. WSU’s representatives were:

Name Yr. Major Sport
Brenden Balick Jr. Bio Sci Soccer
Kristen Bucher So. Education Cross Cntry
Missy Daniels Sr. Nursing Soccer
Taryn Jones Sr. MIS Soccer
Adam Meier Sr. Account. Cross Cntry
Erika Miller Sr. Comm. Volleyball
Matthew Roessner So. MIS Cross Cntry
Brian Syska Jr. Bio Sci Soccer

Raider Honors

The WSU Athletics Department honored 126 student-athletes and other students associated with the department who posted a grade point average of 3.0 or better during halftime of the men’s basketball game against Butler on February 5. More than 250 student-athletes at Wright State posted a cumulative grade point average of 2.920 or better. WSU faculty members who contributed to the success of the student-athletes were also honored.

ON THE WEB www.wright.edu/athletics/
Homecoming 2000 Spirit

Some of the ways students and alumni celebrated Homecoming 2000, which included crowning a queen and king during halftime of the men’s basketball game against Detroit. The Raiders came through for the fans with a 64-61 win.
A mid-winter’s day
Wright State campus
February 2000