The First-Year Experience
A Caring Community of Learners
From the President’s Desk

As 2006 gets under way, I look forward to a year full of innovation and discovery. Nowhere does this promise shine brighter than at Wright State.

Such optimism is possible thanks to the success and growth of the past year, made possible by our talented and dedicated faculty and staff, exceptional students, and generous and supportive alumni and friends.

A milestone in WSU history was reached last year with the largest private gift ever made to Wright State: $28.5 million from Oscar Boonshoft and his family to the School of Medicine. The gift is a major boost to the economic health of the area, enabling the university to bring new state and federal dollars in the community and expand top flight health care.

The gift helped push WSU’s first-ever campaign to over $100 million, which exceeded the $40 million goal set by national benchmarks.

In announcing his gift, Mr. Boonshoft said that his experience with WSU proves that the university “can produce results and get things moving…”—a ringing endorsement by a community leader about Wright State’s role in the region and beyond.

In fact, a central component of WSU’s mission is to be a “catalyst for educational excellence in the Miami Valley, meeting the need for an educated citizenry.” As detailed in the cover story, WSU’s First-Year Experience Program serves as a catalyst for student success during that critical first year of college. With a record of improving student retention, the program garnered national attention by being selected as one of 13 colleges nationwide for the 2005–2006 Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year Project. Criteria for selection included a record of strong commitment to students. As the university undergoes an intensive self-study as part of the project, our First-Year Experience Program serves as a catalyst for student success during that critical first year of college.

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Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to take advantage of all that Wright State has to offer.

I hope you will consider making a gift to the Wright State University Annual Fund so others like me can develop and share their talents to affect positive change in the community.

Christine Esperanza
College of Engineering and Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering major
Class of 2006
Michael Di Flora Endowed Scholarship Recipient
Four-Year Honors Program Scholarship Recipient

Wright State University

Thanks to my scholarship, I didn’t have to leave my hometown of Beavercreek in order to attend a great university.
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1) Award-winning journalist and human rights activist Roger Wilkins greeted audience members and signed books after his presentation, “The Significance of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.”
2) The College of Science and Mathematics hosted over 850 middle school students in December as part of its “Exploring Science” program.
3) The sixth annual WSU Multicultural Halloween Celebration featured foods, arts and crafts, cultural displays, and performances representing a range of cultures.
5) “America Before America” featured paintings of imaginary beasts and beings by Chilean artist Ana Videla Lira in the Student Union Art Gallery.
6) The Wright State Opera Theatre presented *Opera Scena*, which featured performances by 20 students.
7) Campus Parade: Just one of the events of Homecoming 2005.

WINTER 2006

University News

1) Improving the Supply Chain
   To help businesses manage cutting-edge logistics and supply chain management, the Wright Center of Innovation for Advanced Data Management and Analysis (WCI ADMA) and the Information Systems and Operations Management (ISOM) Department of the Raj Soin College of Business announced a partnership to develop and promote educational and research programs to enhance regional capabilities in this area. Officials said these programs will focus on creating the skills necessary to acquire, analyze, and interpret the increasing volumes of data that support high-velocity, sophisticated supply chains.

   “There is an ever-increasing demand for greater visibility into the supply chain, and new technologies, such as radio frequency identification, can make this possible for greater visibility into the supply chain, and new technologies, such as radio frequency identification, can make this possible,” said Ken Herta, WCI ADMA chief marketing officer. “The challenge is to convert this data into usable information and knowledge. We believe that the unique focus of ISOM programs will lead to this and create tools to improve supply chain operations through advanced data management capabilities and better position organizations in a highly competitive global economy.”

   The partnership will also create opportunities between the Wright Center partners, such as CDO Technologies, NCR, P&G, and Standard Register, and the ISOM faculty.

   The mission of the Wright Center is to create new high-wage, high-tech jobs and increased investment and business growth in Ohio. Improving the competitive position of existing businesses is an essential element of this strategy. WCI ADMA is supported by a grant from the Ohio Department of Development as part of Ohio’s Third Frontier project.

WSU Biologist Predicts Avian Flu to Reach U.S.

   It’s only a matter of time before the avian flu virus reaches the United States, according to a research biologist at Wright State University, who said the key is following the migratory patterns of birds.

   Thomas Vair‘Hof is an assistant professor of biological sciences and ornithologist who has studied different bird species for many years as part of his research in comparative physiology.

   “By knowing the migratory patterns of birds and areas where species overlap while traveling between their breeding sites and winter grounds, one can predict precisely where problems will occur,” he explained.

   The scientist said birds migrating south from China, where the deadly flu first showed up, likely made contact with species in Bangladesh and Burma that were migrating west through southern India to Turkey. This is how the virus reached Russia, Eastern Europe, and Turkey. Africa will soon be exposed.

   Vair‘Hof said links between Asia and North America may take longer to surface, but this will ultimately take place. “North American waterfowl and shorebirds will likely have contact with species breeding on the Siberian/Western Arctic tundra, which will ultimately infect bird populations in North America and South America. There is really no populated area of the world that will be immune.”

   He said knowing these migratory patterns can help us prepare for the avian flu virus in the future. “The more precisely we know the migratory patterns of birds, the better we can predict where exposure will occur. We can then be better prepared if the virus should mutate to a form that will infect humans,” he said.

   Vair‘Hof spent nine years with the Research Center for Ornithology of the Max-Planck Society in Germany before coming to WSU four years ago.

Nursing College Earns Maximum Accreditation

   The Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health received its 10-year accreditation, the maximum possible, from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the only national accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and devoted exclusively to ensuring the quality of baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in nursing.

   “It is very important to the accreditation team that our college is not only doing what it says it will, but that the needs of the community are being met,” said Patricia Martin, dean.

   CCNE examined the college’s baccalaureate and master’s programs according to four standards of quality and effectiveness: mission and governance; institutional commitment and resources; curriculum and teaching-learning practices; and student performance and faculty accomplishments.

3) Founder Returns to Direct Bolinga

   The founding director of the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center returned last fall to take up the post of Distinguished Visiting Director for the 2005-06 academic year. Yvonne Seon, Ph.D., comes to Wright State from Maryland, where she served as a professor of African American studies at Prince George’s Community College. A pioneer in African American studies curriculum development, she has also taught at Howard University and the University of Maryland.

   Seon taught Lingala, the Congolese language from which “Bolinga” has its origins, at Central State University. Seon’s background includes two years working in an executive capacity for the government of the Congo/Kinshasa, as a foreign affairs officer for the U.S. Department of State, and selection by President Lyndon Johnson as secretary of the U.S. delegation to the 14th General Assembly of UNESCO in Paris.

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   The founds
Grant to Establish Cold War Archive

The Cold War, generally considered the years from 1945 to 1991, stimulated the aggressive development of modern military technology. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) played an early and major role in this development. Many of the persons who developed these technologies are still living in the Miami Valley, but their experiences and stories are largely unknown.

Thanks to a $100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, Wright State and WPAFB will collaborate on a special project to document these experiences as part of a Cold War technology history archive project.

The grant finances the hiring of an archivist/historian and any necessary equipment to conduct the interviews of people who worked in the early development and implementation of Cold War aerospace technology at the base. Other information such as letters, logs, diaries, planning and discussion documents, photographs, and films will be collected for the archive.

The Air Force Materiel Command’s cultural resources manager will oversee the project, with Wright State’s Special Collections and Archives collecting, preserving, and managing the resulting research materials as the Cold War Technology Archive.

The materials will add to its existing aviation history and aerospace archives, considered one of the world’s leading collections.

Global Marketing Exec Named AVP

Iris E. Harvey, a marketing executive with 25 years of management experience in the public and private sectors, has been named Wright State’s new associate vice president for marketing and communications. Harvey will have broad responsibilities for bringing thought leadership to the institution’s strategic marketing and for developing marketing plans to support student enrollment, the university’s strategic plan, fundraising, and community outreach.

Harvey comes to Wright State from the University of Maryland University College, where she served as executive director of worldwide faculty recruitment for Maryland's second largest and globally focused university. Prior to entering higher education, she served as president of Market Strategies & Solutions Inc., a marketing consultant firm she founded in Tokyo that operated internationally for a decade. The company served a wide range of corporate clients. For nearly 10 years, Harvey was a marketing vice president with Citigroup, where she was responsible for new product development, market segmentation, advertising, and promotion strategies in the financial services industry. The firm provided commercial and investment banking services.

A Ford Foundation Scholar, Harvey holds B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from the University of Southern California.

WSU Enrollment Up

Wright State recorded the second highest enrollment growth among Ohio’s public universities for fall quarter 2005, according to the Ohio Board of Regents. A total of 17,074 students were enrolled at both the main campus and Lake Campus, up 1 percent from fall 2004. This is in contrast to eight of Ohio’s 13 public universities, which saw enrollment drop this year.

The Regents cite a decrease in area high school enrollments and improving economic climate that contributes to the overall decline at Ohio’s four-year institutions. Dan Abrahamowicz, WSU vice president for student affairs and enrollment services, said WSU’s increased numbers reflect an increased awareness and respect for the university throughout the region.

“Our very strong academic programs and high-quality services and facilities represent both excellence and outstanding value,” said Abrahamowicz. WSU also continues to draw more students from outside the area, with more than 60 percent coming from outside the Miami Valley. “Not only have we drawn well from the large metropolitan areas throughout the state, enrollment of new students from out of state was up by about 10 percent as well,” he said.

Want to know more facts about WSU? Go to www.wright.edu/calendar/
Community - WINTER 2006

**Preparing Our Nation’s First Responders**

The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree program has announced a new area of concentration—emergency preparedness.

This area of concentration provides public health, public safety, and health care leaders of the future with the latest skills and knowledge necessary to deal with all-hazards preparedness approach to disasters that may face the nation’s first responders.

Wright State’s M.P.H. degree is a community-based, interdisciplinary educational program in public health with collaboration from several colleges and schools. The new area of concentration will be a collaborative effort between the Boonshoft School of Medicine’s Department of Emergency Medicine, the new Homeland Emergency Learning and Preparedness Center, and the M.P.H. program.

“The workforce of the future will be faced with all-hazards challenges—weather-related events, terrorist incidents, and any other event where the communities and cities across Ohio and the nation could be affected,” says Mark Gebhart, assistant professor of emergency medicine. “This is an insurance policy for the Dayton area—provided by Wright State University and the relationships it has built with the community.” For more information, call (937) 258-5547.

**New Sign Language Degree Offered**

A new B.S. degree program in sign language interpreting is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006 through the WSU College of Education and Human Services. The only one of its kind in Ohio and one of only about 30 in the nation.

The program will involve collaboration with community colleges like Sinclair for the first two years. Dayton area students would take Sinclair’s manual communication program to complete the prerequisites and then transfer to Wright State for the final two years before obtaining the B.S. degree.

Stephen Fortson, WSU associate professor and chair of the Department of Human Services, which will administer the program, said there is a nationwide movement for implementation of this program.

“Because of a desire to increase the educational background of interpreters, the national certifying agency for interpreters has mandated a requirement of a B.S. degree by 2012 to be certified as an interpreter,” he explained.

For more information about the program, call (937) 775-2075.

**Tops In His Class**

It may be clarifying technical information so that all students in his lecture class understand; or working individually with a student struggling over a complicated mathematical equation; or meeting over lunch with a campus organization to advise about an upcoming event. For Nathan Klingbeil, associate professor of mechanical engineering, students always come first.

Now, Klingbeil has chalked up some firsts of his own by being named the 2005 Ohio Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Klingbeil joined other award winners, selected from among 400 nationwide professors, at a special luncheon and congressional reception in Washington, D.C., in November.

“Professor Klingbeil is passionate about teaching and genuinely concerned about his students’ success. His innovations in teaching, especially in terms of the impact on student retention, benefit students throughout the nation,” said David Hopkins, Wright State provost.

Klingbeil’s priority in helping students succeed is reflected in student evaluations with near perfect scores. "He always shows great dedication to his teaching and exudes a zest for learning that becomes contagious to all of his students,” said one former graduate student. Another student said, “Dr. Klingbeil is very passionate about engineering and education, as demonstrated by his enthusiasm and the excitement he brings to the classroom…. There is never a dull moment in his teaching.”

This concern for his students resulted in a $100,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to work with his colleagues on redefining the way engineering math is taught. “Our goal was to increase student retention, motivation, and success in engineering. We removed traditional math prerequisites for freshmen and redefining the way engineering math is taught. “Our goal was to increase student retention, motivation, and success in engineering. We removed traditional math prerequisites for freshmen and replaced them with core engineering courses. We wanted the students to become excited about engineering early in their college career, and then tackle the traditional calculus classes later.”

Klingbeil’s presentations on this national model for engineering education reform have earned awards at the regional level and become the topic of discussion in national engineering circles. “The WSU approach involves the development of a hands-on, application-oriented freshman engineering math course, along with a restructuring of the engineering mathematics sequence,” he explained. “The first year of the new course was an enormous success, with students overwhelmingly reporting an increased motivation to study math and engineering, as well as an increased chance of success in future math and engineering courses. As a result, first-year retention rates for CECS majors requiring the course have increased from 68 percent over the past four years to 78 percent in 2004-05.”

The engineering professor has received some $450,000 in external research support in recent years from NSF, the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute, the Ohio Board of Regents, and other sources.

Klingbeil, who came to WSU in 1999, also advises master’s and doctorate students and has co-authored numerous published papers and abstracts with his graduate students, who have presented their work at a variety of local, regional, and international conferences.

Nathan Klingbeil, associate professor of mechanical engineering.

**University News**

Lake Campus students helped excavate a 55-million-year-old whale in Mississippi. The field class was offered through WSU’s Winter Intercession program, which offers accelerated classes over winter break.

**A Whale of a Project**

Thirteen students in Chuck Ciampaglio’s Paleontology of the Mississippi Coastal Plain course spent their Christmas break unearthing the remains of a 55-million-year-old whale. The Lake Campus assistant professor of geology regularly does field work in the Mississippi area. Located near Meridan, Mississippi, the 34-ft. whale was located in a farm field that was once an inland sea. It took the students about three 10-hour days to uncover the specimen, excavating the torso and portions of the animal’s back. The project was organized in cooperation with officials from the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Museum of the Ozarks. They will be assisted by Ciampaglio and his students to help classify the whale’s species, and learn what it ate and how it lived. The class was scheduled through WSU’s Winter Intercession program, a pilot program that offered accelerated classes during the month of December.

“The best part for me was actually doing the digging and plastering,” says Keshia Gebhart, assistant professor of emergency medicine. “This is an insurance policy for the Dayton area—provided by Wright State University and the relationships it has built with the community.” For more information, call (937) 258-5547.

**2005 Ohio Professor of the Year**

By Richard Doty
$28.5 MILLION

“A REMARKABLE GIFT”

This summer, Wright State University received its largest private gift: $28.5 million to the School of Medicine from local philanthropist Oscar Boonshoft and his family.

“This remarkable gift, from a remarkable family,” says Kim Goldenberg, president of Wright State University, “will provide a major boost to the economic health of the region, enabling us to bring new state and federal dollars into the community and provide top flight health care for our region and beyond.”

At the newly named Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, the gift will be transformational. “This gift positions the School of Medicine to become an unparalleled community resource and to play a leadership role in community-based medical education nationally,” says Howard M. Part, dean of the school.

The gift will help the medical school expand patient care and medical training in key medical specialties; develop innovative programs; and increase scholarships and career choices for medical students.

Patient Care

One key area of growth will be the new Department of Geriatrics, a clinical resource and hub of educational and research activities intended to meet the needs of the growing number of elderly. In partnership with the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Premier Health Partners, the school established one of the first departments in the field of elder care in the nation’s medical schools. A portion of the Boonshoft gift will help develop the infrastructure that will better prepare our community for a large population of aging “baby boomers.”

Another area of support will establish an innovative program geared to help both faculty and students recognize the global nature of health care and provide international learning experiences for them. The program will enable current and future physicians to better understand the successes and challenges that are faced in health care throughout the world and to learn from others how to improve our own health care delivery systems.

Innovative Programs

The medical school will increase seed and start-up funding for pioneering programs in research, education, and clinical care, programs that will quickly become self-sustaining. For example, a key component of the research mission involves collaboration with other research institutions and industry. Recent examples of this type of endeavor include a joint project studying macular degeneration with statewide partners, the Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, and three biotech companies. The school also has developed dual-degree programs that are fully integrated into the M.D. program. Students now combine the M.D. degree with a Ph.D. degree, a Master in Public Health, or Master in Business Administration. A core component of the master’s level dual degree includes the Boonshoft Physician Leadership Program, a program that will set the national standard in preparing physicians for leadership roles in medicine and health care delivery.

“We are very grateful for the friendship and generosity of the Boonshoft family,” says Dr. Part. “With this gift, we can better meet the needs of our community and better prepare physicians for the 21st century.”

Oscar Boonshoft is a trustee of the Wright State University Foundation. His generosity has been instrumental in developing a Division of Health Systems Management, a new M.P.H. program, and a physician leadership program that encompasses new M.D./M.P.H. and M.D./M.B.A. dual degrees at WSU.
HEATHER MORGAN ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A TEACHER. In researching education colleges across the state, she chose Wright State for its highly rated teacher education programs. A resident of London, Ohio, she also liked the idea that it was “close but yet far enough away from home” to allow her to exercise her independence. Although she anticipated a newly gained personal freedom, looking forward to college brought some apprehension and uncertainty. “I’m really soft spoken and shy,” she said, making her wonder how difficult it would be to make new friends.

But her fears were soon allayed even before classes began when she attended SOAR (Summer On-campus Advising and Registration). “I met my closest friend at WSU at SOAR,” she said. Her introduction to college life really took off when she moved into Jacob Hall the weekend before classes and participated in several First Weekend activities. She was also introduced to others in her Learning Community for early childhood education majors.

“I thought the diversity forum was very interesting. And I really enjoyed the Freshman Plunge, because I was involved in community service at home and it gave me a chance to see how I can be involved in college.” Nevertheless, for Miller, the first quarter presented some new challenges: larger classes, increased study loads, and “living with a roommate with different values.”

“I learned how far I can go”

But thanks to Wright State’s innovative First-Year Experience (FYE) initiative, students like Miller are getting the support and services they need to launch a successful college career.

“I struggled at some points, but overall, things went really well. I met a lot of new people and learned a lot about myself. The first quarter prepared me to succeed because I learned more about myself and how far I can go.”

Miller’s experiences were typical of many of the almost 3,000 first-year students who started classes at WSU this past fall. Indeed, coping with living away from home, adjusting to the rigors of university academics, and knowing how to handle new social situations may lead to stress that can end a college career. “But thanks to Wright State’s innovative First-Year Experience (FYE) initiative, students like Miller are getting the support and services they need to launch a successful college career.”

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“The first year of college is a significant life transition for students,” said John Rogers, coordinator for student success initiatives at Wright State. “During this time, students make new friends, form study habits, experience increased personal independence, and have their first interaction with faculty. The first year of college is often a make-or-break time for entering students.”

Over the past 20 years, the importance of the first year of college has been acknowledged by the vast majority of American colleges and universities, according to the Policy Center on the First Year of College. The campus environment—how an institution structures the first-year experience—plays an important role in determining how students engage in learning, spend their time, and whether they return for the second year.

Coordinated through University College in collaboration with Student Affairs, Wright State’s First-Year Experience includes student peer leaders who help guide new students through the orientation and admissions process; seminars that deal with first-year issues; peer support groups that provide ready-made friendships; cohort classes that match students of like interests and majors; and First Weekend festivities that introduce students to university resources and community service opportunities, to name just a few.

Reaching Each Individual Student

“It’s all about reaching each individual student,” said Jeanne Fraker, associate dean, University College. “Every encounter is planned to support the student. The goal is to help accelerate the process of integration and adjustment to academic life.”

The program has garnered national attention: Wright State is one of 13 four-year institutions nationwide selected for the 2005–2006 Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year project. The designation allows WSU access to special resources from the national organization to help expand programs and develop a national model of excellence for the first college year. “We are proud of our First-Year Experience (FYE) program and the success it has brought us in terms of improved student retention,” explained Lillie Howard, University College dean and vice president for curriculum and instruction. “But we want to improve and do even more to help our freshmen succeed and believe this project will help us reach that goal.”

The Foundations of Excellence project is administered by the Policy Center on the First Year of College, a nonprofit higher education research center supported by the Lumina Foundation for Education in Indianapolis. Criteria for selection include a strong commitment to students and a willingness to engage in evaluation and improvement.

“Being selected is an honor indicating that we’ve done a lot of good work in this area, and have in place a solid foundation from which to build,” added Fraker.
Shaping the Entire Undergraduate Experience
The initial phase of the project will be an inclusive and systematic first-year self-study under the guidance of the Policy Center. This is an in-depth look at the university’s strengths and weaknesses measured against nine principles of excellence (Foundational Dimensions) developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities—philosophy, organization, learning, faculty, transitions, inclusivity, all students, diversity, roles and purposes, and improvement.

“The Dimensions principles represent an ideal for improving not only the first college year, but also the entire undergraduate experience,” said Howard. “The Dimensions emphasize the interconnectedness of the entire student experience.”

One survey will gather information from faculty and selected staff members about the effectiveness of current first-year practices and policies. The second will target first-year students about their views of campus efforts in the first year. While the university has been offering freshman seminars and other activities geared for new students since the early 1980s, a formalized, coordinated program was created six years ago under the administration of University College.

University College: Addressing First-Year Academic Needs
University College was founded in 1999, an outgrowth of the former University Division, for the express purpose of addressing student academic needs during the freshman year and facilitating the flow of students into majors and ultimately success in their educational objectives, according to Howard. Since then the college has served more than 16,000 new students.

Virtually all undergraduate students begin their academic careers in University College, where they typically complete the majority of their general education classes and meet entrance requirements to the college of their major. The college also provides extensive academic support services that include advising, developmental education, tutoring and testing services, a Math Learning Center and University Writing Center, leadership development programs, first-year seminars, and Learning Communities.

“Our students are accomplished, team oriented, and achievement oriented. They’re reflective, open to diversity, and enthusiastic and passionate about engaging in civic and community service. The First-Year Experience at Wright State accommodates and promotes these traits,” explained Howard.

Added Fraker, “The ultimate goal is for our students to graduate and contribute to society, to make their mark: one that was fashioned by their experience at Wright State.”

COMMON READING
A component of the First-Year Experience is a required reading whose themes are addressed during First Weekend activities, and may be incorporated into general education classes and first-year seminars. In addition, the author comes to campus to meet with students and discuss the book.

“The common text is an opportunity to engage students intellectually as they enter the academy,” said Howard. “It also promotes the skills necessary to succeed in college: critical thinking, communication, and appreciation for diverse ideas.”

Books are chosen by a committee composed of faculty, staff, and students from throughout the university. Among the criteria for selecting a book is that it must be compelling and engaging, exhibit complexity (i.e., may be read on many levels), require the student to stretch in some way, and provide a common cultural experience.

Starting College Outdoors
For several first-year students, the first week of college was a 26-mile trek over the rugged terrain of the Appalachian Trail.

They were part of a group that launched the Freshmen Outdoor Orientation Trip (FOOT) Program, a new component of the university’s First-Year Experience initiative. According to Amy Anslinger, Outdoor Recreation coordinator, the program’s goal is to foster friendships among incoming freshmen who love adventure in the outdoors and with older student leaders before the stress of school begins.

“The trip was an opportunity for students to start their college life with an adventure while forming bonds with a small group of new classmates,” she says.

The students arrived on campus two weeks before the start of classes to meet their team leaders, finalize planning, and engage in a team-building exercise on the university’s new low ropes course. The first part of the trip involved a four-day backpacking trip, averaging five to 10 miles a day. This was followed by a trail construction service project and a white water rafting trip.

“Interest in outdoor adventure is growing among this age group,” she says. “The trips are designed for all levels of experience, from the novice to the Eagle Scout. It’s an incredible introduction to the Wright State community and an opportunity for incoming students to start their college life on the Wright ‘FOOT.’”

On “FOOT”: Hiking the Appalachian Trail
Activities include field trips to local historical sites, attendance at leadership retreats, and completion of 10 hours of community service per quarter. Community service projects have included volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, Bomberger Teen Center, Miami Valley Hospital, and St. Vincent’s Hotel.

Junior nursing major Kiana Blake said she can relate to the challenges her mentor Brandi Scott faces as a brand new college student. “I think one of the biggest challenges for first-year students is time management,” she said. Besides studying with Scott at the study tables, Blake meets her regularly for dinner, to talk about personal issues or how to prioritize her busy calendar.

First-Year Experience Programs help new students successfully adjust to college life.

SOAR
(Summer On-Campus Advising and Registration): SOAR is the launching pad to the first-year experience at Wright State. Held during the summer, the one-day event welcomes newly admitted students 23 and under and their parents to meet with advisors, learn about WSU’s academic programs, register for full quarter classes, and choose a Learning Community. SOAR is also when they are paired with a student peer leader who corresponds with them electronically throughout the summer and into fall quarter.

SOAR replaces the former two-day orientation sessions, which included placement testing and a lot of the information that is now in First Weekend events. “The former orientation sessions packed a lot of information into those two days. We found that the students would be better served if some of that information was presented at the beginning of the quarter, during a First Weekend event, so the information could be fresh when the students started classes,” said Fraker.

SOAR
(Summer On-Campus Advising and Registration)

First-Year Experience Programs help new students successfully adjust to college life.

SHARING THE VISION
Vision Mentoring targets first-year African American students, pairing them with upperclass students who offer support, advice, and their own personal experiences about how they adjusted to their first year of college.

Academic excellence is a major focus of the program, which requires regular attendance at study tables and, if needed, tutoring services.

But according to Vision Mentoring Coordinator Andrew-Bryce Hudson, college is more than getting good grades: it’s also about achieving independence and personal growth.

“Community service is a major component of the program as well as participation in cultural immersion activities,” he said. “This gives students the opportunity to be exposed to life experiences outside their comfort zone and take part in functions that present a more worldly view.”

Activities include field trips to local historical sites, attendance at leadership retreats, and completion of 10 hours of community service per quarter. Community service projects have included volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, Bomberger Teen Center, Miami Valley Hospital, and St. Vincent’s Hotel.

Junior nursing major Kiana Blake said she can relate to the challenges her mentor Brandi Scott faces as a brand new college student. “I think one of the biggest challenges for first-year students is time management,” she said. Besides studying with Scott at the study tables, Blake meets her regularly for dinner, to talk about personal issues or how to prioritize her busy calendar.
The Start of Good Things to Come

First Weekend is a four-day event scheduled right before the start of classes that welcomes first-year residential and commuter students to the campus community. Assisted by peer leaders, students participate in activities that include opportunities for social interaction and provide information about university resources and services. College information sessions addressed first-year topics, such as academic success strategies, the University Honors program, coping with stress, time management, how to talk to professors, roommates issues, career exploration, and appreciation of diversity issues.

Ice Cream Explosion” gave students first-hand experience about what it’s like to have a disability: they prepared and devoured an ice cream sundae with their eyes closed.

Freshman Convocation is an academic ceremony similar to commencement, where university officers and faculty don full academic regalia. “It’s the university’s official welcome into the academic community,” said Jeanne Fraker, associate dean, University College. “President Goldenberg presents each with a mini-tassel, a physical reminder that in four years, they’ll receive the real thing. I think it means as much to the parents as it does to the students.”

Excited About College: One of the many students who shared the excitement of starting college at the annual “Boogie on the Bricks” kick-off dance.

A “Class” Within a Class

Brandon Ford is one of those students who had his sights set on a specific career even before he started college. “Caring for people and making them feel comfortable and relaxed is what I have always loved to do. That’s what nursing is all about.”

So, when the opportunity arose at WSU’s summer advising and registration (SOAR) to sign up for a Learning Community geared for prenursing majors, he jumped at the chance.

It was an opportunity he’s glad he didn’t pass up. “Being in a Learning Community helped make the transfer to college life a lot easier and introduced me to a lot of amazing people who became my good friends.”

Coordinated through University College, a Learning Community (LC) is really a “class within a class”—a first-year seminar of about 20 to 25 students that centers on college success strategies and/or a particular theme, explains Doug Saul, Learning Communities director. LC themes run the gamut—from college major to a specific career field to those students who want to explore certain social or political issues and trends. But what sets an LC apart from the traditional freshman seminar is that those students are also enrolled in one or two larger general education classes together, providing a built-in support group for what some view as the “make or break” experience of the first year of college.

“In addition to providing some familiar faces for first-year students to study, socialize, and problem solve together, a Learning Community is a direct link to career exploration, providing a richer learning experience by connecting the GE course material to issues discussed in the seminar,” said Saul.

For example, one Learning Community seminar with the theme “Human Behavior: Self and Society” also connects to an introductory psychology class; an “Aboriginal American” LC centers on issues tied to a freshman sociology class; “Sports and Society” is tied to a freshman sociology class.

President Kim Goldenberg welcomes family and friends of first-year students during Move-In Day. Scheduled just for freshmen moving into campus housing, the day brings out the entire university community who help with check-in and moving all the essentials of campus life into residence halls. 

Amy Wright (second from left) was among the many peer leaders who welcomed first-year students to campus during First Weekend, answering questions, giving tips for college success, and steering them to the many activities scheduled throughout the four-day event.

Emily Parrell and Brandon Ford were among the students enrolled in a Learning Community for pre-nursing majors who job shadowed nurses at Miami Valley Hospital.

Saul said the participation rate has increased greatly since the program was created in 2000, when about 1,000 students signed up for the voluntary program. This fall, that number approached 1,700 students, or nearly 80 percent of the entering class.

Extracurricular activities are also part of the Learning Communities experience, many of which stress team building and career exploration. These have included field trips to area museums, a trip to the Renaissance Festival, team-building exercises on a low ropes course and the climbing tower, and dinners with linked general education faculty. Through a special grant program, University College provides funds to support these co-curricular activities.

While many learning community seminars are taught by volunteer faculty and staff, 45 percent are taught by peer instructors: juniors, seniors, and graduate students who are carefully screened, trained, and supervised and paid according to student wage guidelines.

“Using peer instructors allows us to offer more classes. They are key to the program’s success,” said Saul. One of those peer instructors is Heather Beckett, who earned a bachelor’s degree in history from WSU in 2004 and is now pursuing a master’s degree in student affairs and higher education. She also works with Saul as his graduate assistant.

“When I was a freshman, my experience in a Learning Community was so positive that I wanted to help other students experience the same thing,” she said. “As a peer instructor, I feel like the students have an instant rapport with me. It wasn’t that long ago that I was a new student, and I can understand what they’re going through. I can share what worked for me when I went through some of the same things.”
Phase V of the Campus Master Plan

A rerouting on University Boulevard to the campus perimeter took place during last summer, improving vehicular and pedestrian circulation through the north side of campus and access for students residing in campus housing.
WHAT’S NEW ON CAMPUS?

THE RUSS ENGINEERING EXPANSION—Selected for completion in July 2006, the Kristan and Volly Zeilh Research Center is a four-story addition that will house state-of-the-art laboratory space, the RC Appenzeller Visualization Laboratory, and office space for the Wright Center of Innovation for Advanced Data Management and Analysis and the LexisNexis Eminent Scholar. Completion: Fall 2006

STUDENT UNION RENOVATION—This project will expand the health, wellness, and recreation offerings in the Student Union to serve a growing population of health conscious students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Included will be a new fitness center with multipurpose rooms along with building and swimming pool upgrades and a climbing wall. First-phase completion: Fall 2006; Second-phase: Fall 2007

FRED WHITE CENTER ADDITION AND RENOVATION—This project will allow the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine to teach both first- and second-year medical students in this facility, as well as add new labs, lecture halls, and classrooms. Completion: December 2006

SETZER PAVILION/MILLS-MORGAN CENTER—Completed in the summer of 2006, this campus basketball facility is a 30,000-square-foot facility that includes a complete regulation gymnasium, state-of-the-art weight training room, film viewing rooms, and offices for men’s and women’s basketball staff.

MTC TECHNOLOGIES TRADING CENTER—A high-tech “mini Wall Street” teaching facility, the center was completed this fall and includes the same software and global information services used by financial institutions worldwide. A variety of software suites provides news and security information, while televisions monitor CNBC, CNN, Bloomberg TV, and other networks. A ticker board displays real-time information and the same software and global information services used by financial institutions worldwide.

THE RUSS ENGINEERING EXPANSION—Completed in December 2006, this expansion added 30,000 square feet to the existing engineering building, including a 15,000-square-foot lab and office space as well as additional lecture halls and student lounges.

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REACHING OUT

Wright State community rallies to help Hurricane Katrina victims

As the news of the devastation that Hurricane Katrina wrecked on the Gulf Coast became known, members of the Wright State community marshaled their talents and resources to lend a helping hand.

“Our hearts go out to those affected by the overwhelming destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina,” said President Goldenberg.

“The spirit of compassion, collaboration, and community outreach was alive and well across the campus as faculty, staff, and students rallied around those affected by this disaster.”

Efforts included a host of fundraiser activities running the gamut from wine tastings and volleyball tournaments to a contest at a local comedy club. Also seen throughout the campus were a host of collection sites piled high with clothing, school supplies, baby items, and canned goods.

EYE OF THE STORM

While thousands of people were evacuating the Gulf Coast to escape Hurricane Katrina, two members of the Department of Emergency Medicine were heading into the eye of the storm. Mark Gebhart, M.D., assistant professor, and Scott Fitzsimmons, senior EMS technologist, were among the first responders to this national tragedy.

Gebhart serves as a medical team manager for Ohio Task Force One, an Urban Search and Rescue team under the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He was the only physician among the 35 task force members deployed to the Meridian Naval Air Station. Once they arrived in Gulfport, Mississippi, the team immediately went into “blitz” mode, working 36 hours without rest. The team searched 2,500 structures, rescued two people, and provided care for dozens of others.

"The days were long, but it was rewarding. That’s truly what we train to do. This experience was the most profoundly moving experience of my medical career," he says.

Scott Fitzsimmons served with the Ohio 5 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) in Biloxi.

“When we first pulled into Biloxi, a mere 36 hours after the hurricane, it looked like a bomb had gone off,” he says.

DMAT teams operate mobile emergency rooms, providing triage and stabilization for patients. During their 12-day Katrina deployment, the Ohio team treated more than 1,800 patients.

Fitzsimmons joined the Department of Emergency Medicine a few months back to take on the role of first responder program manager for the department’s new Homeland Emergency Learning and Preparedness (HELP) Center, a community-wide effort to better prepare the Greater Miami Valley for large-scale emergencies, such as weather disasters, terrorist attacks, or hazmat situations.

Other Relief Efforts

- Application fees were waived for seven undergraduate students who were enrolled in universities on the Gulf Coast. In addition, the university worked one-on-one to address any financial needs.

- LILLIE HOWARD, vice president for curriculum and instruction, dean of University College, delivered an array of donated items to a family from New Orleans who relocated to Dayton after Katrina.

- SOPP GRADUATE STUDENTS offered counseling services to survivors of Katrina who had relocated to the area.

- The Residential Community Association, Student Government, and Greek Council “adopted” students from the University of Southern Mississippi, which sustained over $270 million in damage. Students raised over $500 cash to purchase gift cards; and collected school, baby and children’s supplies; personal hygiene items; paper and plastic products; linens; and canned food. Joe Berthiaume, assistant director of residence services, delivered the items in December.

Collecting funds at Fall Fest, just one of the many ways the WSU community rallied around the victims of Hurricane Katrina.
Solving the Paradox

Dean seeks to answer questions about basic life processes at the cellular level.

Michele Wheatly is one of those remarkable administrators who can juggle the all-consuming tasks of being a college dean while maintaining an active research agenda. “I believe the best way to instill a culture that values funded research is to lead by example,” said Wheatly, who was named dean of the College of Science and Mathematics in 2002. A life science researcher, Wheatly has maintained an NSF-funded research laboratory for 25 years, initially at the University of Florida and since 1994 at Wright State University. She is the recipient of the Society for Experimental Biology’s prestigious Presidential Medal, and has garnered an international reputation for her research in comparative physiology. She currently serves as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on seven grants from the National Science Foundation, in the areas of both bench science and education/training of underrepresented students.

Comparative physiologists use non-human models to study basic biological processes. In recent years, her research has focused primarily on understanding how cells regulate and transport calcium, commonly regarded as one of the most important electrolytes. She uses the molting cycle of the freshwater crayfish as an animal model because of the impressive fluxes of calcium that accompany remodeling of the exoskeleton following shedding. “In parts of the body where calcium is acquired (for example in humans this would be the gut) the cells are faced with a paradox, namely, how to import calcium into the body without elevating cell concentrations to toxic levels,” she explains. She is especially interested in the genes that encode the calcium transporting proteins on the cell membrane. More importantly she is studying what turns on, then turns off, the process of calcium accumulation. Finding the answer can provide fundamental knowledge of basic life processes at the cellular level.

“With the sequencing of the human genome, there is great interest in sequences for comparable proteins in primitive organisms, since they will inform the overall understanding of how the same proteins work in humans. Our lab has been one of the major contributors to the understanding of calcium homeostasis in invertebrates. Our submissions to the gene bank are often the first sequences for crustaceans.”

Her research has fostered several collaborations across disciplines and on an international scale, including working with Brazilian researchers to assess the evolution of calcium-transport proteins among related species that inhabit a spectrum of environments—from marine to freshwater and onto land. This work will shed light on the molecular basis of increased reliance on dietary calcium associated with the evolution of life onto land. She has also worked with engineers to use biological models to design adaptive computer interfaces.

While Wheatly has distinguished herself as a scientist and educator, she has also received acclaim for helping to change the face of science. Her aim is to increase the representation of women, minorities, and people with disabilities in scientific fields. Among her most well-known efforts is a program she established with WSU’s Office of Disability Services, the CLASS Project (Creating Laboratory Access for Students in Science), considered a national model for training science teachers in creating laboratory and field experiences that are universally accessible for students. The program earned a Wright State President’s Award for Excellence—Outstanding Collaborative Unit in 1997.

Indeed, when asked what she considers to be the most rewarding part of serving as dean, she says it’s assembling teams to work on interdisciplinary projects in both the research and educational domains. “Critical to the research engine in the years ahead will be interdisciplinary solutions to complex problems. The best thing about being the dean is that I get to interact broadly with faculty across the sciences and mathematics. I have trained a lot of great scientists and get great satisfaction that a high proportion have been women.”

“Critical to the research engine in the years ahead will be interdisciplinary solutions to complex problems.”

“In parts of the body where calcium is acquired the cells are faced with a paradox, namely, how to import calcium into the body without elevating cell concentrations to toxic levels.”

—Michele Wheatly

Our lab has been one of the major contributors to the understanding of calcium homeostasis in invertebrates. Our submissions to the gene bank are often the first sequences for crustaceans.

—Michele Wheatly

A computerized image of a slice of crayfish kidney, measuring about 5 mm, produced by Ping Gao, research associate in Wheatly’s lab. The yellow to red colors show the increase in calcium transporting proteins during the three phases of molting. The lower series of images indicate the background color (blue) as the control for the experiment.
TOMORROW TAKES FLIGHT
The Campaign for Wright State University

HERITAGE SOCIETIES INDUCTION, RAIDER AUCTION CELEBRATE PHILANTHROPIC SPIRIT

Each year Wright State thanks individuals and community partners who are dedicated to advancing the unique qualities that make the university such an important community asset. This year’s Heritage Societies’ Induction was held on October 8, 2005, and acknowledged the support of more than 71 individuals and organizations. They joined the ranks of nearly 900 Heritage Society members who have contributed more than $99 million in gifts to Wright State.

“This generosity has made an impact on the student learning experience at Wright State by providing valuable support for facilities and scholarships, cutting-edge programs, and innovative research,” said Marcia Muller, vice-president of University Advancement and president of the Wright State University Foundation.

The induction was combined with the Raider Athletics Auction and took place in the newest building on campus, the Setzer Pavilion/Mills-Morgan Center. This state-of-the-art athletics training center opened on August 23, 2005, with over 80 donors contributing in excess of $3.9 million. Special honorary alumni status was granted to Fred Setzer, who led the fundraising campaign for the project and Bob Mills, whose company constructed the building.

MTF TECHNOLOGIES TRADING CENTER OPENS

Thanks to the vision and financial support of Raj Soin, MTF Technologies, and a host of corporate and individual donors, Wright State’s Raj Soin College of Business opened a simulated financial trading center on October 24. This facility will augment the highly successful student-managed investment program which consistently outperforms the Standard and Poor’s 500 Index and provides students with the opportunity to invest a portion of the university’s assets.

“The new trading center offers students across all disciplines in the college a valuable real-world learning environment and enhances the college’s training and development services for businesses in the region,” explains Berkwood Farmer, dean of the Raj Soin College of Business.

This new trading facility, one of the most advanced in the nation, was made possible by an unprecedented collaboration of area businesses and individuals. A leadership gift from MTC Technologies with a substantial matching gift from Dayton entrepreneur, philanthropist and WSU supporter, Raj Soin, provided principal funding for the center. In all, over $600,000 was raised to make this dream a reality.

Other corporate sponsors include:
- Dayton CPA Society
- Eubel Brady & Suttman Asset Management, Inc.
- Huntington National Bank
- James Investment Research
- Merrill Lynch
- MPC Computers
- Smith Barney/Citigroup Foundation

Individual major sponsors include:
- Robert and Ruth Chandler
- Richard (78) and Susan (84) Davis
- David (78) and Theresa Gasper
- Douglas Holt (70)
- Thomas (75) and Elizabeth Jenkins
- Michelle (82) and David (84) Miller
- David McGinnis (78)
- Neal (76, 80) and Kristine Pemberton
- Raymond (70) and Deborah Unklaus
- John York (72)

The 2005 registered nurses honorees included:
- Denise Martin, The Children’s Medical Center
- Jacqueline M. Miller, Community Hospital
- Elaine Harvey, Dayton Heart Hospital
- Marlene Davis-Piecos, Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Shanon Bennett, Good Samaritan Hospital
- Cynthia Blankenship, Grandview Southside Hospitals
- Lori J. Evans, Greene Memorial Hospital

HONORING AREA NURSES

Wright State University’s Cameos of Caring awards ceremony was held on campus Saturday, October 15, 2005. More than 300 people attended this event designed to advance the nursing profession by honoring front-line nurses for their caring, wisdom, dedication, and advocacy. This year, three scholarship recipients were named and 15 nurses were recognized by their respective health care agencies. To date, Wright State has held five Cameos of Caring galas, raising approximately $125,000 from community health care agencies for nursing scholarships at Wright State.

“The outpouring of support for this event demonstrates our community’s commitment to providing quality health care by professional nurses in the Miami Valley,” states Patricia A. Martin, dean of the College of Nursing and Health.

Individual major sponsors include:
- Susan Bosbach, Hospice of Dayton, Inc.
- Diana Montgomery, Kettering Medical Center
- Veronica Miller, Lila Connexion of Ohio
- Peggy Martineau, Mercy Medical Center
- Ann Crenshaw, Miami Valley Hospital
- Joyce Burleigh, Southwestern Ohio School Nurses Association
- Franke Bael, Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare
- Mary Allen, Upper Valley Medical Center

INDIVIDUAL DONORS TO THE 2005 CAMPAIGN CONTINUES AS COMMITMENTS SOAR

The 2005 fiscal year ended with the following results:

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* Includes only gifts made between April 1 and June 30.
** As of December 31, 2005

GIVING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES AS COMMITMENTS SOAR

Campaign Report

22 Community WINTER 2006

Community WINTER 2006 23
Wright State’s New Technology-based Learning With Disability Program is developing innovative methods and technologies for making education accessible to students with disabilities.

Removing Barriers, Opening Doors

Holly Slack slides her wheelchair up to the microscope and, with her thumb and forefinger wrapped around the knob, rotates her wrist to bring a specimen slide into focus. Her master’s thesis research in histology—the study of tissues—focuses on the kidney structures of certain frogs. What happens when their systems shut down during winter hibernation? How do they react to differing conditions of cold? Could the process they go through possibly improve how human organs intended for transplant react to cold storage? Holly hopes to find out.

The black tables in the biology lab are too high for Holly to reach, so Jim Frieh, the research assistant who manages the lab, brought a lab in a study table and raised the microscope incrementally with boards until it was right at eye level for her. He keeps a portable heater nearby for times when Holly is working on her research because her circulation is poor and she is always cold. He reaches into the fume hood to pour the chemicals she needs and acts as her hands when her research involves use of pipettes or the accuracy of fine motor skills.

It takes several half-hour periods for frog tissue to be imbedded in resin so that it can be sectioned into a specimen that Holly can study under the microscope. During that down time, she and Jim collaborate on another project. They’ve filled three pages in a legal pad with ideas on improvements they would have filled three pages in a legal pad. They’ll test the theories of their chosen discipline against the practical challenges of real-world problems faced by people like Holly.

“Sometimes when I am in the lab I get ideas about technology that would be helpful,” she said. “In this program I’d be helping others and helping myself.”

Attracting Highly Qualified Ph.D. Candidates

“Wright State has made significant strides in creating an accessible environment within our lab and technology programs. The infrastructure is there for students to take courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Technology-based Learning with Disability Program is a means for us to attract highly qualified Ph.D. candidates who want to work in technology or in the sciences in these areas. We anticipate that a number of those highly qualified doctoral candidates will also have a disability,” said Jeff Vernooy, director of the Office of Disability Services and chair of the program’s outcome committee.

“In the 28 years that I have been here at Wright State, I have had the opportunity to see the university open doors for students in a variety of areas. This new program not only opens the door: it rolls a red carpet.”

Vernooy knows from experience that the doors to a science education have not always been open for people with disabilities. As a junior in high school, he was forced to take his chemistry class in the nurse’s office because his school did not have an elevator to get him and his wheelchair upstairs to the classroom. He studied alone with his textbook, while his classmates did experiments in the lab.

A Life-Changing Event

Holly Slack was a sophomore at Lake-wood High School in rural Hebron, Ohio, when she decided on a science career. She loved biology—cell studies, genetics and human heredity, how organs function, and how disease disrupts vital processes. Looking through the microscope opened up a whole new, magical world. Holly had nearly finished her junior year in high school when the car she was a passenger in ran off the road, flipping three times and ejecting her from the back seat. Her neck was broken between the fifth and sixth cervical vertebra. Holly could breathe, but had lost all feeling from her chest down.

During the two months that Holly spent in rehab learning how to live with quadriplegia, tutors kept her current in schoolwork. They worked with her throughout the summer to keep her on track and she graduated with her senior class as a valedictorian. It was at her rehabilitation center that Holly first heard about Wright State and its reputation for accessibility. Some expressed surprise at her plans to attend college, but “it never even crossed my mind to change my plans after the accident,” she said.

The Office of Disability Services helped her adapt to the challenges of college life and four years later Holly got her bachelor’s in biological science, finishing with a 3.8 GPA.

Today Holly is only a thesis away from getting her master’s in biology and plans to earn a doctoral degree as one of the first students in Wright State’s new Technology-based Learning with Disability Ph.D. program.

“Sometimes when I am in the lab I get ideas about technology that would be helpful,” she said. “In this program I’d be helping others and helping myself.”

Eligible students will receive:

- an initial stipend of $30,000 per year
- tuition and fees paid for three years

To learn more, go to www.wright.edu/lwd

By Stephanie Jame Ely

Holly Slack, a master’s student in biology, plans to earn a doctoral degree as one of the first students in Wright State’s new Technology-based Learning with Disability Ph.D. program.
Golfing “Fore” Scholarships

The Legacy Scholarship Program has raised more than $502,000 and awarded over $60 individual scholarships to the spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and legal dependents of current voting association members. For more information on the program, contact the WSU Alumni Office at (937) 775-2620. Special thanks go to all our sponsors, especially our event sponsors, whose generous support makes this event bigger and better each successive year.

The Wright State University Alumni Association wishes to extend a very special thank you to the following companies and individuals who made our 2005 event the best yet!

HOLE SPONSORS
- AAI Products of Dayton, Inc.
- Aetna
- Amos Risley, Inc., of Ohio
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- Merrill Lynch, YIGA Group
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- Saga Dynamics
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- Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Alumni Association

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- Erwin J. Hatter Center
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- Golf Galaxy
- Hampton Inn
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- National City Bank
- Olive Garden
- Price Stores
- Raj Soin College of Business
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- River Downs
- Toledo Polytechnic
- Victoria Theatre Association
- Wright State University Barnes & Noble Bookstore
- Wright State University College of Education and Human Development
- Wright State University Foundation
- Wright State University Science and Mathematics
- Wright State University Department of Mathematics

CLASS OF 1972
R. Gregory Cross (B.S.), a government and advanced placement government teacher at Beavercreek High School, was chosen as the Beavercreek Education Foundation’s “Teacher of the Year” for the 2004-2005 school year. In April 2005, Cross was also chosen by the Beavercreek Board of Education as one of four recipients of the “Teacher of the Year” Award for Beavercreek City Schools. In May 2005, he was selected as the class valedictorian of Beavercreek High School. John Chachka, a fellow alum, was named “Most Influential Teacher”—an award which he has received a total of six times in previous years.

CLASS OF 1973
Ed L. Phillips (B.S.) is currently president and CEO of Balfour Realty Construction, Inc., one of the world’s leading heavy civil construction companies. The company is responsible for building complex highways, bridges, tunnels, dams, and water infrastructure plants.

CLASS OF 1977
Charlie Gles (M.A.; ’71 B.S.) was hired as the vice president of finance and CFO for Legacy Ministries International (LMI). He has overseen budgeting, finance, purchasing, payroll, real estate, and insurance risk management for the LMI family of ministries, which includes Dayton Christian and Xenia Christian Schools, Legacy Village retirement community, Legacy Assisted Living, and the Legacy Ministries Foundation.

CLASS OF 1981
Harry L. Bourne (B.A.) was selected to be listed in the National Register of Who’s Who in Executives and Professionals for 2005.

CLASS OF 1982
Johnford Dowain Scarborough (M.Ed.; ’78 B.S.) is a retired teacher and administrator for Dayton Public Schools. He also retired from Little Miami Local Schools, where he served as an elementary principal.

Grads Return to Share Success Stories

Four WSU alumni joined Kathy Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space, as featured speakers at WSU’s Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Symposium in October. The goal of the symposium was to encourage undergraduates to pursue careers in the STEM fields, inform about internship and employment opportunities, and hear the personal stories how experts in these fields have achieved success. Wright State sponsors were Affirmative Action Programs, Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center, College of Engineering and Computer Science, and College of Science and Mathematics.

A Passion for History

Budge Federspiel-Newbury (’05 M.A.) garnered statewide acclaim when she was named a 2005 Ohio Teacher of the Year in a statewide National History Day competition sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society. Federspiel teaches world and American history at Stivers School for the Arts in Dayton. Nominated by her 10th grade students as an exceptional teacher, she coordinated Dayton’s first history fair at Stivers in 2004. She also took several students to state competition and attended the National History Day Teacher Institute in Washington, D.C., last summer. Federspiel earned national board certification while in graduate school at WSU and received the 2002 James Madison Fellowship to study at Wright State. She was selected Dayton Teaching American History Fellow last year, which involved participating in a yearlong seminar and attendance at the 2004 Organization of American Historians meeting in Boston.
WSU Cameos of Caring Awardees

Elaine Haney ('97 B.S.N.)
Dayton Heart Hospital

Cynthia Bleske-Winter ('94 B.S.N.)
St. Catherine Southview Hospitals

Laura J. Eavers ('94 B.S.N.)
Greene Memorial Hospital

Ann Crenshaw ('96 B.S.N.)
Miami Valley Hospital

Joyce Bartle ('96 B.S.N.; '06 M.S.)
Southwestern Ohio School Nurse Association

The Wright State-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health recognized 15 nurses from the region who exemplify caring, advocacy, and caring in the nursing profession. All told, the program has raised about $125,000 in scholarship funds for Wright State University nursing students since it was established in 2001 by WSU nursing dean Pat Martin, honors nurses from throughout the Miami Valley who exemplify wisdom, knowledge, and wisdom, and who exemplify wisdom, knowledge, and wisdom.

BMS Ph.D. Program Celebrates 25th Anniversary

WSU's Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. Program celebrated its 25th anniversary with a reunion on campus this past fall that included the presentations of several awards to alumni and faculty for distinguished contributions. The awardees pictured (L–R) are:

- Robert Gardner: Big Step Award (first program director), in recognition of his critical contributions to the program.
- William Batuk: Ph.D., First Graduate Award.
- Tamara Collette: '94 Ph.D., Institute Award
- Dwayne Lofall: Mentor Award, WSU professor of biochemistry
- C. David James: '95 B.S., '87 Ph.D., Imprint Award

40 Under 40 Awards

WSU's 40 Under 40 Awards Celebration included presentations of several awards to alumni and faculty for distinguished contributions. The awardees pictured (L–R) are:

- David Bush: '90 B.S., '72 M.S., nominated by President George W. Bush last September and confirmed in early November following a appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee.
- Mike Davis: '96 B.A.; '96 M.P.A., appointed by President George W. Bush last September and confirmed in early November following a appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee.
- Elaine Haney: '97 B.S.N., Dayton Heart Hospital
- Cynthia Bleske-Winter: '94 B.S.N., Southview Hospitals
- Laura J. Eavers: '94 B.S.N., Greene Memorial Hospital
- Ann Crenshaw: '96 B.S.N., Miami Valley Hospital
- Joyce Bartle: '96 B.S.N., '06 M.S., Southwestern Ohio School Nurse Association

40 Under 40 Awards

- Mike Davis: '96 B.S., '72 M.P.A.
- William Diederich: '91 B.A.
- Sabrina Harrison: '94 B.S.N.
- Alexa Lounsbury: '98 B.A.
- Linda Mescher: '98 M.S., '01 M.B.A.
- Nancy Moss: '90 B.A., '03 M.P.A.
- Kelly Schilling: '91 B.S.N.
- Ann Singleton: '91 B.A.
- Susan Wingate: '91 B.F.A.

40 Under 40 Awards

- William Diederich: '91 B.A.
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- Kelly Schilling: '91 B.S.N.
- Ann Singleton: '91 B.A.
- Susan Wingate: '91 B.F.A.

CLASS OF 1983

Tod Gudeff (B.A., Dayton attorney, was elected president of the Ohio Forum of Estate Planning Attorneys. The organization consists of attorneys from throughout Ohio who focus their practice in estate planning, estate administration, and business planning. Gudeff is one of only 110 board-certified estate planning and probate attorneys in the state of Ohio and will soon enter his 20th year in practice.

CLASS OF 1986

Annette Clayton (B.S.E.E.) has been named vice-president of quality, GM chairman, and CEO of GM North America.

CLASS OF 1988

Cynthia Sexton Perrotti (M.B.A.) retired from the United States Air Force as a lieutenant colonel in February 2005 after 20 years of service.

Jason Sims (B.S.B.) was named an Ohio Super Lawyer Rising Star by Law & Politics Media. Sims is an attorney in Cincinnati for Dinsmore & Shohl L.L.P. and his law firm has more than 250 attorneys who counsel clients on a local, regional, national, and international basis.

CLASS OF 1990

Patrick Wendland (B.F.A.) is currently working at Lucas Films.

CLASS OF 1993

Leah M. Davis (B.A.) recently graduated with a Juris Doctor from the Purdue College of Law at Ohio Northern University.

CLASS OF 1998

Edward Sean Pierce (B.S.B.) has been offered the first Office of Naval Research Distinguished Chair in Science and Technology at the Naval Academy. He joined the academy faculty in August 2001.

CLASS OF 2001

Kristin Clipped (B.F.A.) directed Driving Miss Daisy, a mainstage feel-good dramedy, for Clear Stage Cincinnati.

CLASS OF 2002

Girish Deshpande (M.B.A.) joined Ascendem Systems in Bangalore, India, as manager of business development. Deshpande focuses on e-learning products, services, and solutions space for pharmaceuticals and high-tech manufacturing companies.

CLASS OF 2003

Karen Chamberlain (B.S.R.) assumed The Salvation Army’s sanitary in Suffern, NY. She completed two years of intensive training in Biblical Studies, doctrine, and counseling as well as courses in business and finance. In June 2005, Chamberlain was ordained as a minister in The Salvation Army and has been assigned to her first church in Covington, KY.

Etter Tapped With Presidential Appointment

Delores Etter, Ph.D., has been named the U.S. Navy’s new assistant secretary for research, development, and acquisition. Etter (“70 B.S.; ’72 M.S.) was nominated by President George W. Bush last September and confirmed in early November following a appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“My responsibilities include making sure that the new systems for the Navy and Marine Corps include technology that gives our military an edge in fighting the war against terrorism,” said Etter. “It also includes making sure that the Department of the Navy is funding research that will result in new capabilities for future systems.”

According to a recent article in Trident, the newspaper of the U.S. Naval Academy, Etter gained national visibility when she served as deputy undersecretary of defense for science and technology from June 1998 to July 2001. In that position, she was responsible for the Department of Defense’s $9 billion Science and Technology Program. She represented the program before Congress and pushed for technology with military uses in industry, at universities, and in the different military services.

When her Pentagon appointment was up, the article said she was offered the first Office of Naval Research Distinguished Chair in Science and Technology at the Naval Academy. She joined the academy faculty in August 2001.

“Science and engineering and education have been inter-related in my life ever since the chair of the mathematics department at Wright State encouraged me to try teaching,” said Etter, an expert in digital signal processing. “I’m proud of the opportunities I’ve had to serve my country.”

Etter, who will take a three-year leave of absence from the Naval Academy to serve in her current post, has also served on the faculty of the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the University of New Mexico as a professor of electrical and computer engineering, and as a National Science Foundation Visiting Professor in the Electrical Engineering Department at Stanford University. A member of the Naval Research Advisory Committee from 1991–97, she chaired the committee from 1995–97. Etter has received the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the Secretary of Defense Outstanding Public Service Medal, and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal.

— STEPHANIE JAMES ELY —
**Scrooged!**

Is it more fun to be the bad guy? Ask Bruce Cromer who, after eight seasons of playing the docile Bob Cratchit in the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park’s production of *A Christmas Carol*, took on the lead curmudgeon role of Ebenezer Scrooge this past December.

“The character transformation of Scrooge is more detailed and delicate, so I get to employ more craft when devising it,” says Cromer. “But I relate more to Cratchit’s circumstances since I have a family and a relatively lean income and hopefully a generous nature.”

The production has been a popular holiday tradition in the area for the past 15 years. Cromer filled the spot vacated by Jonal Joplin, who retired after eight years in the lead role. A 1982 graduate of WSU’s theatre arts program, Cromer is a favorite on stages in the Miami Valley and beyond. In addition to the Cincinnati Playhouse, he’s appeared on numerous other area stages, including Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival. And, he’s been a resident artist with Dayton’s Human Race Theatre since 1987. Nationally, he’s had lead roles in productions ranging from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey to the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, to name just a few. Stage combat is another forte: he is a certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors.

Off the stage, Cromer is mentoring others to follow his lead as an associate professor of theatre arts at Wright State, the place where he got his first leading roles as an acting major in productions like *Look Back in Anger*, which was invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in 1979.

“I am now in my late forties, sharing my craft with my students,” he says. “I’ve never really needed fame and fortune, just the respect of my peers and the applause of my audiences. It’s a good life.”

—By Connie Steele

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**Class of 2005**

Dawn Jessup (B.A.) is attending Wright State University for graduate studies working toward a master’s in English composition and rhetoric. Andrew David Rice (M.Ed.; B.S.) is a social studies substitute teacher for Xenia Community Schools. Thomas J. Rice (M.Ed.; B.S.B.Ed.) earned his master’s degree in classroom teaching in August 2005.

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**2005 Alumni Achievement Awards**

- **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mentoring, B.A., M.S. ‘03**
- **Volunteer Service Award Douglas Boyd, B.S.Ed., ’01**
- **Business Alumni Associates Award of Excellence Ronald Cloutis, B.S.B. ’84**
- **Distinctive Alumni Achievement Award Bruce Clark, B.S.B. ’70**
- **Recent Graduate Award Mark Gehret, B.A., ’01, M.D. ’07**
- **Athletics Alumni Award of Excellence Frank Klierter II**

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**2004–05 Second Team All-Horizon League selection...Horizon League Player of the Week after 25 points with eight assists vs. Toledo, 2003–04. Named to the Horizon League All-Newcomer Team...looking to join the 1,000-point club this year...named first-team All-State by the Detroit Free Press for Class B...Prep Spotlight named him the fifth best point guard in Michigan...signed May 12, 2003.**

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**Brittany Whiteside**

Guard 5-8 Jr. Columbus, OH/Mifflin

For the 2005–06 season, named Preseason First Team All-Horizon League. During the 2004–05 season, selected First Team All-Horizon League and to the League’s All-Defensive Team...double-double of 15 points and 10 rebounds along with five assists and three steals against IPFW...double-double of 25 points and 10 rebounds along with eight assists versus Ohio...named the Horizon League Player of the Week for her efforts against IPFW and Ohio.

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**Amy Cron**

Butterfly/Back Jr. St. Marys, OH/Memorial

For the 2004–05 season, finished second in the 100 fly, third in the 100 back and fourth in the 200 back at the Horizon League meet...member of the 200 medley relay squad that placed second at the league meet and the 400 medley relay team that finished third...posted team’s top time in the 100 and 200 back and the 100 fly...part of WSU’s top 200 and 400 medley relay squads...selected to the league’s academic honor roll.

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**Alex Dolgov**

Breastst/Indiv. Medley Sr. Columbus, OH/Boxley

2004–05 team MVP...Horizon League champion in both the 200 and 400 individual medley and second in the 200 breast...member of the 400 free relay team that set new League and school marks, the 800 free relay squad that set a new school record in winning a League title and the 200 free relay team that set a new school record...posted team’s top time in the 200 and 400 individual medleys...part of WSU’s top 200 free, 400 free, 800 free and 400 medley relay squads.
Fall Sports Wrap Up

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**

**Overall: 11-5-3;**
**Conference: 4-1-2.**

The 2005 season saw the Raiders, under first-year head coach Pat Ferguson, tied with the 1990, 91, 96, and 99 squads for second in wins in a season including an impressive on the road record of 7-3-3. The 2005 edition joins the 1988 team as the only teams in school history to post two win streaks of five or more games in a single season. As a team the Raiders took home the Air Force Invitational championship, defeating host Air Force and tying Northern Colorado to win the title.

The team honors didn’t stop until the team scooped up their second straight National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Awards. The Raiders posted a team GPA of 3.19 for the fall quarter.

The Raiders open the 2006 season on the road against Big XII opponent Nebraska on August 25.

**MEN’S SOCCER**

**All Games: 10-10-0;**
**Conference: 4-3-0**

The Raiders fought their way to a 10-win season for the third time in head coach Mike Tracy’s five seasons. The Raiders also posted a winning Horizon League record for the first time since 2002 and advanced to the semifinals of the Horizon League tournament for the fourth time in five seasons.

Junior Tony Labudovski netted nine goals on the season, adding two assists for 20 total points. The Raiders offense was aided by the speed of senior Jason Tackis who led the Raiders with eight assists, putting him tenth on the single-season assists list, tied with Neil Chandler and Jim Thompson. Josh Grossman led the team in shots and tallied five goals and three assists, ranking second on the squad in points.

In goal the Raiders were led by netminder Jason Balach’s four shut-outs for the season. On his career Balach sits fourth all-time in shut-outs with 14.1 and saves with 256.

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Season Review**

The volleyball team, under first-year head coach Trina Smith, struggled during the regular season, but came alive when it mattered most, advancing all the way to the championship match of the Horizon League Tournament for the first time ever before falling in five games.

The seventh seed in the eight-team tournament, Wright State started its Cinderella run by sweeping Butler in three games and followed that with a five-game decision over UIC, a match that saw the Raiders rally after losing the first two games.

WSU trailed 8-3 in the fifth game of the semifinal match against Cleveland State, but came back to win 16-14 and advance to the finals versus Loyola. Again the match went the limit of five games, but this time the Raiders came up just short in their attempt to make the NCAA Tournament for the first time.

Three Raiders were named to the All-Tournament Team in junior Sarah Poling, who was earlier named All-Horizon League, sophomore Lindsey Frank and freshman Lizzy Gunn. Poling and Frank were also selected Academic All-Horizon League along with senior Lisa Griffith.
ANSWER THE RAIDER CALL:
The WSU PHONATHON is an integral part of the university's annual fundraising drive!
In the heart of campus is a room that comes alive each evening with energy and enthusiasm when students contact WSU friends and alumni. By contacting you personally, they recognize the important role you play in creating the many opportunities available at Wright State. The phonathon is your chance to connect with current students, share your news, and obtain campus updates. By offering your financial support, you can help these worthy students achieve their dreams.