FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF COMMUNITY MAGAZINE.

I find it especially rewarding that the same year I begin my tenure as WSU’s sixth president is also the same year that the university is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Campus spirit is high: we’ve had an overwhelming response to an impressive lineup of speakers for the Honors Institute and Presidential Lecture Series; colleges and departments have hosted an array of special reunion events; an all-class reunion hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations was a huge success. There’s a special anniversary Web site (www.wright.edu/40years), and even a blog site (www.libraries.wright.edu/40th_wsu) where you can add your own personal comments, photographs, and memories of Wright State. And of course, who can forget March Madness when the Raiders won the Horizon League championship and went on to the Big Dance?

When I first came to WSU as provost in 2003, I was immediately struck by a real “can-do” attitude of faculty, staff, and students: a sense that we can try new things, that all things are possible.

It’s also the same spirit that led to the very founding of Wright State 40 years ago, when a community knew that if they all worked together, real change could take place, lives could be changed, a vision could be achieved.

Today, their vision has been fulfilled. The impact of Wright State touches almost every aspect of life in the Miami Valley: from the number of WSU alumni who stay and work in the area with the skills for today’s high-demand jobs, research that addresses community needs and creates high paying jobs for the global economy, leading-edge technology and business practices that help the region grow, and cultural and arts events that add to the quality of life.

I hope you enjoy looking back on the life and times of the university’s first 40 years. I think you’ll agree with me that it’s a celebration of a very special university community whose “can-do spirit” will carry on over the next 40 years!

David R. Hopkins
President
Wright State University
Taking a Look at WSU History
The university community is in the midst of celebrating the Wright State's 40th anniversary. Community invites its readers to take a stroll down memory lane, to see the way we were and what we have become.

Research Through the Decades
Even before Wright State achieved independent status, research was playing a central role in the mission of the new university. Meet some faculty who represent the groundbreaking research that has taken place during each decade of the university’s history.

Pioneering New Ground in Web Technology
Our society is deluged with data. Wright State research is pioneering the next generation of Web technology by organizing and analyzing data through computer applications and software development. The Kno.e.sis Center was created to apply knowledge to understanding.

Internationally Speaking
Underscoring the value of international education, Wright State is surpassing national and state enrollment totals for international students as part of a successful global outreach.

A Conversation with President David Hopkins
Meet WSU’s new president David Hopkins, as he discusses his views of moving the university forward with economic engagement strategies, community partnerships, and service; answering the governor’s call for increased accountability in higher education; and the importance of higher education for the 21st century.

University News

2006 Alumni Achievement Awards

Development News

AlumNotes

Athletics
WSU Founder Remembered

The Wright State University community mourns the loss of Robert Oelman, who died Thursday, May 10, in Delray Beach, Fla., at age 97. Oelman, one of Wright State’s founders, was the first-chair of the university’s Board of Trustees.

As CEO of NCR, Oelman and Wright State’s other founders envisioned the need for a public university in the Dayton region. They raised funds and convinced the state legislature of the need for a new university. After opening as a branch campus of Miami University and The Ohio State University in 1964, Wright State was born in 1967.

Oelman spent 41 years at NCR, beginning as an advertising copywriter and advancing to CEO. He guided the company through difficult times of growth and transition from 1960 to 1974. Under his leadership, the company transitioned from mechanical to electronic cash registers.

Oelman was also a graduate and trustee of Dartmouth College. He and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Coolidge Oelman, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last fall. Oelman was a board member of First National City Bank (Citibank), Ford, Procter and Gamble, Ohio Bell Telephone, Koppers Co., and the Winters National Bank & Trust.

His interests in government and public policy led to numerous assignments for the federal government, including a stint as an advisor to Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird in the Nixon administration. He had great success as an administrator of a complex and multifaceted organization. He said Oelman "has demonstrated a personal commitment to diversity and a dedication to building quality and excellence in higher education. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Angle as part of the Wright State community."

WSU Ranked Nationally in Doctoral Research

A national ranking of research university productivity places Wright State fourth in the country among those institutions with 14 or fewer Ph.D. programs.

As reported by The Chronicle of Higher Education, the survey from Academic Analytics ranks institutions on the basis of faculty publications, citations, and financial and honorary awards earned. Wright State has six doctoral programs in biomedical sciences, computer science and engineering, environmental sciences, clinical psychology, and human factors and industrial/organizational psychology.

“This is a measure of faculty excellence, and we are very pleased to have an external agency rate our faculty to be so highly productive,” said Jay Thomas, Ph.D., dean of the Wright State University School of Graduate Studies.

DePaul University ranked first, San Diego State second, and Bryn Mawr third in the small research university category. Harvard was first for large research universities.

“This shows we can compete nationally both with large state schools such as Ohio State and with prestigious private colleges such as Bryn Mawr,” said Thomas.

The for-profit company Academic Analytics developed a Faculty Scholarship Productivity (FSP) Index. The 2005 FSP index of scholarly output covered nearly 7,300 Ph.D. programs involving 178,000 faculty members from both large state and private institutions.

Included were 61 smaller research universities, as measured by the number of doctoral programs, in the category with Wright State.

Steven Roger Angle, a nationally recognized researcher, honored educator, and experienced administrator, has been named Wright State University’s new provost. He replaces David Hopkins, who was named Wright State’s sixth president to succeed Kim Goldenberg, who retired in January.

As Wright State’s provost and chief academic officer, Angle oversees the university’s schools and colleges and nationally funded research centers and institutes, along with the divisions of Business and Finance, Advancement, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Curriculum and Instruction, and Research.

Angle comes from the University of California, Riverside, where he served as dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) and director of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Program. He also holds the rank of professor in the Department of Chemistry.

Angle was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1999 and an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in 1993, an award that allowed him to advance his research on cancer-treating chemotherapy agents and the design of new anti-cancer compounds. He received UCR’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991.

“I am looking forward to working at Wright State, an institution that has grown in its well-earned reputation for the learning experience it provides its students, for innovative and collaborative research that impacts the regional economy, and for its engagement with the community it serves,” said Angle.

“Dr. Angle has a proven track record of successful collaboration within and outside the university,” said Hopkins. “He has had great success as an administrator of a complex and multifaceted organization. He has demonstrated a personal commitment to diversity and a dedication to building quality and excellence in higher education. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Angle as part of the Wright State community.”
Strong Enrollment Growth

Wright State University’s enrollment growth over the last six years is greater than nine of Ohio’s 11 comprehensive public universities. According to figures provided by the Ohio Board of Regents, full enrollment at Wright State University’s Main Campus increased from 14,493 in 2000 to 16,093 in 2006—an increase of 11 percent.

“Academic excellence and the highest quality services and facilities are hallmarks at Wright State,” said Dan Abromowicz, vice president for student affairs. “Beyond that, our accessibility and personalized attention to students are just some of the reasons for our enrollment increase over the last six years. We have the lowest tuition among public doctoral-granting institutions in Ohio. Our residential community is among the finest anywhere.”

The work of admissions staff has enhanced recruitment of new students. Wright State has successfully eased the difficult transition for its new students with its innovative First Year Experience (FYE) program. Wright State was one of 13 higher education institutions nationwide selected for the Foundation of Excellence® in the First College Year Project.

Business College Named Top Nonprofit

The RAI NON College of Business was named the Not-For-Profit Organization of the Year for 2006 by the Dayton Business Journal. The college was praised for supplying the region with a steady flow of business graduates, collaborating with area businesses on internships, career recruiting and consulting projects, and opening its MTC Technologies Trading Center as a Wall Street–style trading room for area companies.

“We appreciate this recognition for our efforts and the achievements of our faculty and students,” said Berkwood Farmer, dean. He said 60 percent of the college alumni remain in the Dayton area, with many assuming leadership roles in business and government.

Examples of the college’s leadership role in the business community include the Center for Innovation and Management, which works with Dayton Development Coalition in creating high-tech jobs; the ambDaptive Center for Business Process Management, which aids business processes; the Center for Business Integrity, which aids business process management; and Wright State engineering professor. At WSU, the class has increased Wright State first- to second-year retention while boosting student motivation and confidence in their abilities. Their reputation as the best program in the nation was so solid and impressive that the Japanese ambassador met with the team, a rare level of recognition at this national conference that annually educates more than 4,000 students about the United Nations and contemporary international issues facing our world.

Students Garner National Honors

WHEN PITTED against students nationwide, WSU students are coming out on top: Dylan Borchers placed second in the nation out of more than 3,000 cadets in the Army ROTC National Order of Merit Evaluations. A senior majoring in political science, Borchers is scheduled to graduate in June to begin a four-year active duty tour with the Army as a military intelligence officer. He earned three ROTC scholarships at Wright State, participates in the Honor’s Program, holds a 4.0 grade point average, and is a Army ROTC Outstanding Cadet.

MBA students once again garnered top honors at the 2007 Society for Advancement of Management nationwide case competition. This is the fourth time students achieved first place honors and the fifth competitive year that Wright State placed in the top three in the nation. Competing against 44 teams, the team worked on developing marketing, corporate governance, and international strategies that balance Church & Dwight’s Arm & Hammer brand with recent acquisitions that include such brands as Brillo, Pypendon, Spinbrush, and Nair.

For the 28th straight year, WSU’s Model UN team brought home top awards from the National Model United Nations competition in New York. Wright State’s team, which included MBA, psychology, and computer science majors, along with political science and international studies students, competed against teams from 190 colleges and universities. Their representation of Japan was so solid and impressive that the Japanese ambassador met with the team, a rare level of recognition at this national conference that annually educates more than 4,000 students about the United Nations and contemporary international issues facing our world.

WSU, Sinclair Partner for Science Education

Wright State University and Sinclair Community College have joined forces to launch a local initiative to increase the number of students entering careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), thanks to a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of $2 million over five years. The joint WSU/Sinclair venture addresses America’s increasing dependence upon science and technology and the role of colleges and universities to graduate students in these fields.

“We will develop a common first-year science, technology, engineering, and mathematics experience,” said Michelle Whealy, principal investigator and dean of the WSU College of Science and Mathematics. “With the goal to increase first- to second-year retention of STEM majors at both institutions and STEM major transfers from Sinclair to Wright State.

By the end of their college attrition is a significant problem, particularly in the first year, a key to the project involves implementation of an introductory mathematics for engineering class at both institutions—which was developed by engineering faculty at both institutions—and coordinated by Nathan Klingbeil, co-principal investigator and Wright State engineering professor. At WSU, the class has increased Wright State first- to second-year retention while boosting student motivation and confidence in their abilities. Their reputation as the best program in the nation was so solid and impressive that the Japanese ambassador met with the team, a rare level of recognition at this national conference that annually educates more than 4,000 students about the United Nations and contemporary international issues facing our world.

PIONEERING NEW GROUND in COMPUTER AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Amit Sheth, LexisNexis Eminent Scholar for Advanced Technology Management and Analysis at Wright State University, is pioneering the next generation of Web technology with applications in diverse fields ranging from defense and thwarting healthcare technology to college and university campuses.

The technology breakthroughs are tied to economic development through the creation of high value jobs in information technology companies.

“We live in a society where we are deluged with data, and a key goal in our work is to organize and analyze this data through computer applications and software development,” he explained.

“We want to collect the dots and then connect the dots.”

As the LexisNexis Eminent Scholar, Sheth directs the Kno.e.sis Center, a world-class academic research organization created to apply knowledge to understanding.

“Kno.e.sis is based on the Greek word for knowledge, and our goal is to advance new approaches, techniques, and technologies for information integration and analysis and for process management,” he said. “One key to our work is to make data understandable for machines so that machines can do more for humans.”

One way Sheth will achieve this is through the Semantic Web, an evolving experimental of the World Wide Web in which content can not only be expressed in natural language but also in a form that can be understood, interpreted, and used by software and machines.

Sheth said the researchers contribute to workforce development by educating and training graduate students.

The research contributes to economic development through the creation of intellectual property and technology transfer leading to software products and services. Sheth’s work involves several fields, including:

- Health care: Improved electronic record systems will help doctors with instant decision support to avoid drug interactions and achieve a better match between diagnosis and treatment.
- Life Science: Sheth’s team helps biologists improve automation of their experiments and provides better analysis of data to understand such things as the role of complex carbohydrates in cancer research.
- Financial Services: Successful investment strategies rely on finding patterns and trends from an increasingly diverse set of information sources (market data, historical trends, commodity prices, etc.) that can be better integrated using the Semantic Web.
- Security: Kno.e.sis can help banks minimize the risks of money laundering, fraud, and terrorism resulting from going beyond normal search engine applications to include relationships and patterns using organizations.
- Military: These applications include integrating sensor data from spy satellites and other sources with known data bases and profiles to provide troops and commanders in the field with the latest situational awareness.
- The center, part of the Wright State College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, is housed in the recently completed Joshi Research Center.

Goals of the center are closely aligned with those of the $43 million daytaOhio, a Wright Center of Innovation, also headquartered in the Joshi Center. Part of the state’s Third Frontier Project, daytaOhio was created to leverage innovation in data-intensive technologies.

Sheth is internationally known for his work in information integration and analysis, metadata and workflow management, and the Semantic Web and service-oriented computing. He came to Wright State in January from the University of Georgia.

Sheth said the Miami Valley has excellent resources for his work in these fields because of daytaOhio, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the proliferation of information technology companies in this region like LexisNexis, and considerable entrepreneurial spirit. “The forward-looking university and area IT leadership is in place here to provide an environment for big success and provides an excellent match to my desire to be an educator, researcher, and an entrepreneur at the same time,” he said.

Primary funding sources for Kno.e.sis involved federal agencies such as NSF, NIH and the Department of Defense. Secondary sources are industry collaborations and state grants.

For more details, contact Sheth at amit.sheth@wright.edu or (937) 775-5203. Information is also available on the Web site at http://knoesis.wright.edu.
The Ambassador Programs constitute a passport to overseas study.

The University Center for International Education (UCIE), headed by Michell Streeter-Ferrari, interim director, saw the number of new international students jump nearly 80 percent last fall, and overall international student enrollment is up by 14 percent. Nationally, international student totals increased 8 percent, while in Ohio the increase was less than 1 percent. Similarly, interest is growing among Ohio students to study abroad. This summer will see the largest group of Wright State students studying abroad in the history of the university.

Wright State currently has more than 600 international students enrolled, representing 68 countries. The top three countries represented at the university, and nationally, are India, China, and Korea. Most of the Wright State international students are studying at the graduate level, with engineering and business the most popular fields. UCIE has partnerships with schools around the world, allowing for the exchange of students, faculty, and collaborative research and academic programs. WSU students have the opportunity to study abroad, and international students come to WSU for a single term or an entire year.

Among these international students is Maria Auerbach, a business major who left Germany to attend college in America and chose Wright State. “People told me I was crazy to go so far, but I’m thankful for the experience,” said Auerbach. “I needed to move on, to experience new cultures. When I visit friends at home, they have stayed the same, but I have changed so much.”

Camilla Chen, who arrived in January, had a specific reason for coming to WSU. As the owner of a trading company in Shenzhen, China, Chen is earning an Executive Master’s of Business Administration. But Chen’s sacrifice is greater than most: she left behind her husband and nine-year-old daughter for this year of study. “It was a hard decision, but a manager needs a wide range of knowledge,” she says. “I am enjoying my studies but I will be glad when my husband and daughter come to visit for two months this summer.”

It’s hard to believe but Enam Dossa from Senegal comes from a Wright State family. “In my country, if we want higher education, our choices are to study in Europe or in the United States, and my older brother and sister both went to Wright State, so I came here,” Dossa says. Since arriving at WSU in 2004, this biomedical engineering student has not had the opportunity to return home for a visit. “I might get another degree, and my ultimate goal is to return home to work in hospital,” she says.

When arriving on campus, international students have adjustments to make—large and small. “In Kuwait, it’s inappropriate to sit and visit with a girl but here I have girls as friends,” said Abdul Abu-Taleb, who is studying International Business at WSU. But Abu-Taleb said he does not have a problem keeping the cultures separate. “Although, when I am in Kuwait, my friends say ‘I smile a lot, something else not done there,’ ” he said—with a smile.

American friendliness can be an adjustment, but also is a big benefit. “People are very easy to talk to,” Auerbach observes. “Someone will approach me and say ‘Hey, you’re in my class.’ That’s nice.”

Wright State’s international student population increased nearly 80 percent last fall and overall student enrollment is up 14 percent. Both totals surpass state and national enrollment totals for international students.
true, but at first I was surprised at the personal questions people ask in just the second meeting,” Dossa says.

Although Dossa’s command of the English language is superb, her first language is French. “In my science classes, there were many new terms to learn in English that I wasn’t familiar with,” she reports.

“I find a lot of diversity in the Wright State community, and have met people from many states and backgrounds. People are very welcoming.”

When asked what she does for fun, this African woman sounds very much like many other Wright State students when she answers, “I hang out with friends, go to a movie or for coffee.”

“Hanging out” does have benefits that go beyond the social aspect. Streeter-Ferrari said the economic impact of these international students is considerable. “The totals for room, board, and tuition equal more than $16 million annually, and this doesn’t count the money the students spend in the Dayton community,” she said.

The international students themselves are not the only ones who benefit from WSU’s program. “For our students who don’t have the opportunity to study abroad, having international students as part of campus life helps them learn about other cultures,” said Streeter-Ferrari. “International students are definitely a key to internationalizing the campus. They participate in classroom discussions, get involved with student groups, make presentations in some of our weekly Coffee Hours, and many live on campus. This helps our American students learn diverse ways of thinking.”

“Students too often find comfort in the similar,” said Wright State junior Ryan Godfrey, “but the invaluable experiences one gains when interacting with international students is something no student should ever pass up. We are encouraged to expose our minds to new perspectives, and the relationships I have gained in working with international students have taught me to look at each aspect of life from a diverse perspective,” he said.

As Wright State makes an impact through a growing global education initiative, Streeter-Ferrari praised the faculty for their efforts to greatly expand the Ambassador Programs. “These short-term trips are developed largely through the efforts of dedicated faculty, and this summer our professors will lead Ambassador Programs to France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, and Spain, in such fields such as modern languages, political science, and art history,” she said. Streeter-Ferrari said 200 students are scheduled to travel abroad this year, including 100 this summer compared to the previous summer high of 59 in 2005.

December Green, assistant professor of political science, is taking 10 students to Japan this summer, where they will travel to Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, and Hiroshima. The students will study comparative politics of Japan and the United States, and research such issues as health care, crime, and gender relations.

“By spending three weeks in Japan, we will get a chance to test whatever preconceived notions we might have about the country,” Green says, who led a group of 14 students to Brazil and Argentina in 2004. “By studying Japan using the comparative method, we will all learn in what ways we are different, but more importantly, how much we are alike.”

Last winter a group of 32 Wright State students spent three weeks in Costa Rica through a biennial Ambassador Program. The Costa Rica program, offered since 1995, is the longest continuous study-abroad program offered at Wright State. The students lived with host families just outside the capital city of San Jose and were able to travel to such natural wonders of the country as the rainforests and volcanoes, plus learn about the culture through visits to small villages and talking with Costa Rican residents.

Jackson Leung, music director of the Wright State Chamber Orchestra, took a 32-student group of young musicians and 12 faculty members to Hong Kong and Macau last December for a series of concerts. “It was a very exciting project,” he said. In addition to giving concerts, the students and faculty worked one-on-one with young Chinese musicians at local cultural centers. Leung says, for many orchestra participants this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop ties and friendships with their Chinese colleagues.

At the Raja Soin College of Business, international business majors are required to complete an internship, and this has resulted in an overseas experience for some students. Tatiana Luie interned near Dayton with a German manufacturing firm before traveling to Chile for international business and Spanish language studies at a university in Santiago. While there, she volunteered for a social service agency to help homeless children at a day care center. Recent graduates have interned in locations as diverse as Cambodia and France. A few years ago, Rachelle Sedenick interned in Singapore with the U.S. Department of Commerce. Her success in this assignment resulted in a position after graduation as an international contracts manager with a Texas high-tech firm.

English Language and Literatures faculty Henry Limouze, Carol Wilson, and Roger Fecher raised $5,000 to establish a village bank in the African country of Malawi. The funding provides basic financial services, such as insurance, savings accounts, and loans.

The Honors Institute theme for next year will continue a global view by focusing on the environment from a local, regional, national, and international perspective. Wright State has partnerships with some 20 universities overseas. Countries represented include Sweden, France, Germany, England, Korea, Spain, Brazil, China, the Netherlands, and Japan.
He had served as Wright State provost since 2003 and was elected president by the Wright State Board of Trustees during a special meeting of that governing body on July 7, 2006.

Born in Portsmouth, Ohio, and raised in Elyria, near Cleveland, President Hopkins did his undergraduate work at the College of Wooster, Ohio, and his doctoral work at Indiana University.

A central hallmark of his tenure at Wright State has been his leadership in the implementation of the university’s five-year strategic plan, a dynamic and visionary document that defines the university’s role in the world and its future direction in the region and beyond.

You can read more about Dr. Hopkins’s plans for Wright State and higher education in the following interview, conducted by Community magazine.

What is it that excites you most about taking over the helm of Wright State?

I believe deeply in our mission as a university. I am honored and proud to serve and lead this great university committed and grounded in the values of opportunity, success, innovation, excellence, service, and community.

Throughout my life people have given me opportunities, so to be in this position, where I can help provide new opportunities for students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds and abilities to excel, is very fulfilling. It is a tremendous privilege to know that together we are helping people achieve their dreams!

What will be the focus of your first months in office?

My main focus is to ensure a smooth transition to maintain the great momentum we have established at WSU. We have been fortunate to add two experienced and highly capable leaders to our team in Provost Steven Angle and Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies Jack Bantle. In addition, having served as provost for almost four years, I saw the opportunity in my first month to reposition some of our existing leadership team to focus on the important priorities of continuing the development of our curriculum and delivery mode, enrollment management, and enhancing student life.

Dr. David R. Hopkins
holds a doctorate in kinesiology from Indiana University. Prior to his doctoral work, he received his master’s degree in mathematics and his bachelor’s in physical education from the College of Wooster, Ohio. Hopkins’ research interest is in the area of exercise physiology and fitness and aging. He has authored or co-authored more than 60 publications and is the inventor of ACUFLEX instruments, which are used worldwide to evaluate joint flexibility.
“Wright State has the innovative spirit that comes with not being shackled by some of the traditions that sometimes longer-standing universities have. At Wright State we really have this attitude that we can try new things.”

What impact do you intend for Wright State to make in the community?

From the day we were founded we have been dedicated to serving as a catalyst for education excellence in our community. As we celebrate our 40th birthday, we celebrate 80,000 graduates and 40,000 that reside in the Miami Valley. Our impact has been significant. As we move forward, we must be very purposeful in our economic engagement strategies. We must be innovative in the ways Wright State contributes to the economic vitality of this region. It’s important that we continue to build on our strengths and establish a strategic alliance with businesses and industries to grow prosperity for our region. Universities play a vital role in driving economic activity in our state and in creating economic opportunity for our citizens. To realize higher education’s full potential to the state, we need a state budget that adequately supports the role.

The state data shows Ohio behind other states in the attainment of educational attainment levels in our community are getting better is a major challenge. What do you see as the mission of higher education in general for the 21st century?

Since American higher education began 300 years ago, there has always been a compact with funding sources that defines the mission of higher education as serving the public good. That is a compact that lasted for many, many years. But we’ve seen that compact disintegrating in the last decade. Some started to view higher education as a personal benefit to individuals as opposed to asking what public good is generated by higher education.

Governor Strickland has made higher education funding a priority in his budget and the proposal from the House builds on that. The state is putting its trust in the educational system, therefore it is important that higher education responds to meet the needs of the state. One of the ways we can do that is by significantly increasing the number of Ohioans who attend college and earn degrees.

What do you see as the mission of higher education in general for the 21st century?

We have just completed a 10-year review by the North Central Association accreditation commission, in which every aspect of our operation at Wright State University was examined. When they left, they said they have never been to an institution where there were no concerns, no follow-up visits needed, and where they saw the kind of collaboration and commitment to mission that was occurring here. So, we welcome the scrutiny. We’ve been very, very diligent in making sure that we use taxpayers’ money effectively and efficiently for the purpose of educating students, building a research and scholarship infrastructure that serves this region, and really reaching out to the community to improve the quality of life.

As we complete the fourth year of implementing our five-year strategic plan, we are spending time with people within the university and throughout our communities to share our initiatives and listen to their thoughts about WSU and what we can and need to accomplish in the foreseeable future. This is crucial in helping us revitalize our strategic plan over the next few months.

What do you see as the mission of higher education in general for the 21st century?

“I think the challenges are increasing our national visibility to attract the very best faculty and the very best staff that we can because it’s the quality of people that is going to make the difference in how Wright State contributes to this region.”
“I am honored and excited for the opportunity to serve this great institution and the community. We stand as a beacon of academic excellence, discovery, and innovation produced by a truly outstanding faculty who are committed to preparing our students to be tomorrow’s leaders.

What do you think are the biggest issues facing higher ed?

Well, the obvious answer is future funding. But let’s move on from that to something bigger. I think the greatest issue facing higher education is the ability to help students succeed. We must help them first to aspire to education beyond high school. Today in Ohio only 30% of the population age 18–24 are in some form of education beyond high school. It is not enough to give people opportunities. We are not retaining and graduating students at the rates we need to. We must focus our efforts on challenging and supporting these students to succeed.

Another issue that faces higher ed, one that I will continue to focus on, is how we use assets of the university to fuel innovation and economic development within the community. We can’t ignore that, especially in Ohio. I think it is important that we create mechanisms within the university that are more nimble and agile to respond to needs and opportunities in our community. Leveraging our strengths to enhance our community benefits everyone.

As the inventor of Acuflex, an instrument for measuring joint flexibility, have you found that you also focus on maintaining flexibility in all aspects of your life?

I work very hard to maintain a healthy balance in my life. Angelia and I have six beautiful and talented children and Nicole (12) and Alex (13) are still living at home. They keep me balanced. I really cherish being a dad. I think that I am the first president to have young children in Rockafield and they are excited to be an intimate part of our campus life. I will always do my very best on behalf of Wright State and all of its people. But I will also never forget that the most important thing to me is my family.

This year, Wright State celebrates its 40th anniversary. As we look forward to advancing Wright State’s mission into the 21st century, we invite you to join us on the following pages as we also celebrate the legacy—so far—of this “finest example of cooperative spirit.”
Then & Now: Registering for Classes

1968: Registration cards students used to register for classes.

1968: Registration session in Allyn Hall.

1979: Registration window, Allyn Hall: for this couple, the day included registering for classes and taking their marriage vows.

1995: Registering by telephone through ROX made standing in line unnecessary.

2007: Using the campus Web site portal, WINGS, students can register for classes, pay fees, see their grades, and access financial aid information.

Then & Now: University Libraries

1973: Card catalog files dominated space in University Libraries, with areas set up to promote quiet study.

1996: With the catalog going online in 1986, computers became the prevailing library tool.

1996: Business education class

2000: Computer lab

2007: Today, many areas of University Libraries are configured to facilitate study teams.

Then & Now: Chow Time

1968: First Graduation on the Quad

1990: Graduation in the brand-new Nutter Center

2007: The well-equipped college student

Then & Now: Learning Technology

1968: Business education class

1990: Graduation in the brand-new Nutter Center

2000: Wireless classroom

2007: The well-equipped college student

Then & Now: Graduation:

1968: First Graduation on the Quad

1990: Graduation in the brand-new Nutter Center

2007: The well-equipped college student

Celebrating 40 Years

Then & Now: Chow Time

1968: Student Cafeteria

2007: Student Union Market

Celebrating 40 Years
Student Life: Having fun and getting the most out of campus life hasn’t changed much through the decades.
Four Decades of Expanding the Research Enterprise

As a Carnegie Foundation research-intensive university, Wright State ranks among an elite group of higher education institutions conducting research that benefits society. Indeed, from its very founding, Wright State has engaged with government, business, and the nonprofit sector to conduct research that meets the needs of the community it serves—leveraging resources and solving problems of a community moving forward as a center for aerospace, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and health care research.

Today, at any one time, WSU faculty and doctoral students are engaged in over 300 research projects, in everything from improving work environments to identifying river toxins, from unraveling the mysteries of the brain to forging new frontiers in computer modeling and advanced networking technology.

In looking back over the past four decades, it becomes apparent that as the university matured, so did the scope and impact of the research enterprise at Wright State:

The 1960s: Sponsored programs and research were in their infancy, with the university receiving approximately $300,000 in funding during its first year as an independent university, and with three-fourths of the external funding coming from the federal government.

The 1970s: In just a few short years, Wright State surpassed $5 million in funding for the first time in 1978–79. A major change in the research enterprise was an increased emphasis on collaboration and partnerships between researchers in academia, government, and industry.

The 1980s: Research statewide was strengthened when the Ohio Board of Regents began the selective excellence programs including Research Challenge grants which continues today. Annual research awards exceeded $30 million by the mid-1980s. Although originally approximately 75 percent of the external funds Wright State received came from the federal government, during this decade we began to see an increase in private and state funding.

The 1990s: External funding topped $40 million in 1999. The conversion to electronic communications and database access created a major shift in how the university was able to tap into funding opportunities, opening up channels for faster and broader access to potential funding sources from government and industry.

2000: The 21st century saw the Third Frontier come to WSU with the creation of Dayton Ohio, the Ohio Research Center, and the start of a major science lab expansion and renovation. As university research was being tied more and more to economic development, the trend for increase in funds from private industry and business continued, as the university worked on developing channels to transfer research to development, the trend for increase in funds from private industry and business and renovation. As university research was being tied more and more to economic development, the trend for increase in funds from private industry and business continued, as the university worked on developing channels to transfer research to development.

Research and Sponsored Programs funding also reached a new level with more than $60 million received in both 2004-05 and 2005-06.

To learn more about how WSU research has made a difference in people’s lives, Community is featuring just a few of the researchers who began their careers at Wright State during each decade of the university’s history.

1960s: Creating a University

Professor emeritus of chemistry Rubin Battino became part of Dayton history in 1966 while he was an assistant professor of chemistry at the Illinois Institute of Technology. The Miami Valley was about to see the birth of a new public university when Battino accepted a position at what was then a branch campus of Miami and Ohio State Universities.

“...It was actually hired by Ohio State. The science and engineering faculty were with OSU, and business, education, and liberal arts fell under Miami University.”

One year later, the branch campus would gain independent status and become Wright State University, the region’s first public comprehensive four-year university.

Battino came to WSU with a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, a fully functioning lab, and a postdoctoral student.

“A moving van showed up at ITT and I packed my entire lab into the truck,” he said. The lab included lots of specialized and delicate glassware, but only one piece was damaged in the move. Battino repaired that himself, explaining that “scientific glass blowing was a skill I picked up in graduate school.” Within two weeks, his lab was up and running.

“There were only about 90 faculty on the entire campus. At one time, I was serving on 17 committees. We were setting regulations, standards, rules. We were building a university!”

As a physical chemist, Battino has centered his career on the thermodynamics of solutions. The work has wide-ranging practical and theoretical applications, from medical research to the environment to industry.

“One of things I’m most proud of is the work I’ve done with my postdoctoral students that involves the super-precise measurements of the solubilities of gases in water, which would take anywhere from 12 to 15 hours to do one measurement.”

He still gets about a half dozen inquiries each year from researchers and students requesting data from his research. Over the years, his work has garnered major support from NIH as well as funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and various industry sources such as the Petroleum Research Fund.

In addition to publishing more than 80 research papers and four technical books, he’s devoted a large portion of his career to fostering chemistry education, authoring over 70 papers on chemical education. And, he started with John Fortman, now professor emeritus of chemistry, WSU’s popular chemistry demonstration shows that for over 30 years has attracted thousands of students from the Dayton region who learns the wonder of chemistry through things like exploding balloons, glowing pickles, and luminescent soap suds.

Officially retired, he still teaches one chemistry graduate course and supervises graduate and undergraduate research students. He still likes to “putter around in the lab.” But it’s not the same laboratory that made the trip from Chicago to a moving van more than 40 years ago. “When I retired, I shipped my entire lab to a colleague at Blaise Pascal University in France, where to my knowledge it is still being used.”
1970s: Birth of the World’s Longest Lifespan Study

Roger Siervogel, the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research, has spent decades studying generations of research participants.

Director of the Lifespan Health Research Center, Siervogel leads a team of research scientists and thousands of loyal “research subjects” working together to gather a wealth of data that will help solve important health-related problems. Part of the Department of Community Health in Wright State University’s Boonshoft School of Medicine, the center’s ongoing research includes several population studies to determine the impact of risk factors for various diseases including obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diseases of aging.

Specifically, Siervogel researches “Adiposity Disease Risk Factors and Lifetime Health” as part of center’s Fels Longitudinal Study. This year marks the 29th anniversary of this NIH-funded study—Wright State’s longest-running grant.

Physical growth and maturation were the key research areas of the study when the Fels Institute was started in 1929 as a private, nonprofit program to study the effects of the Great Depression on child development. Its initial project, the longitudinal study from conception to adulthood, was designed to answer the question “What makes people different?” In 1977, the Institute was donated to Wright State’s School of Medicine, and the Fels Longitudinal Study found a new home in what was to become the Lifespan Health Research Center.

As the years have passed, the pool of Fels Longitudinal Study participants has grown. “The focus of the study was originally more centered on childhood growth. But as the Fels participants aged, we shifted focus to include other kinds of research,” Siervogel said. “The emphasis has evolved to include risk factors for common diseases such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, and others. We try to identify genes that contribute to the disease process in some way.” In addition to the very first volunteers, enrolled prematurely in 1929 and now in their mid-70s, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are now part of the study, coming into the center at regular intervals for testing.

“Independent of the Fels Longitudinal Study, my very first NIH grant in 1976 was a totally new study called the “Genetics of Hypertension,”” said Siervogel, who joined the team in 1974 and named director of the Lifespan Health Research Center in 1992. “That study later became the Southwest Ohio Family Study and is active today in genetic studies of obesity, cardiovascular disease, and osteoporosis.”

The Lifespan Health Research Center research priorities also include genetic studies that examine how genes affect growth, health, and disease processes; public health research; and technology transfer to help make practical use of the new knowledge generated by the research, explained Siervogel. After 33 years, Siervogel is stepping down as director, but plans to continue directing the projects on which he is the principal investigator.

1980s: A Scientific First

Andermann’s syndrome is a relatively unknown disease caused by a gene mutation critical to our nervous system development. Because this gene helps brain growth and communication, children born without it will most likely develop difficulties in walking, become confined to a wheelchair, and not live beyond 30.

Now, research scientists are learning more about this disease because of the work of Peter Lauf and Norma Adragna-Lauf. The couple, who has received more than $2.5 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, and other agencies, collaborates with Guy Rouleau’s Brain Research Group at the University of Montreal.

“We laid the groundwork in the 1980s with the discovery of a protein in the cell membrane, which was subsequently found by the Canadian group to be abnormal in patients suffering from Andermann’s syndrome. This protein, which transports salts such as potassium and chloride, was found in almost all tissues of the body. But it has only recently been cloned due to the advances in molecular research,” explained Peter Lauf, a WSU University Professor whose primary research interests encompass cellular physiology and the biophysics of membrane transport.

Lauf was one of the first scientists in the world to identify how this protein operates in red blood cell membranes. His work concentrates on studying the physical properties of biological systems, such as cells and body organs. His focus is on the fundamental transport of salts in and out of individual cells.

“In addition to Andermann’s syndrome, our work has applications to sickle cell anemia, heart disease, hypertension, kidney dysfunction, Alzheimer’s disease, and other conditions that relate to the red blood cell transport system,” said Adragna-Lauf, whose research expertise encompasses pharmacology and toxicology. “The goal of our research is to apply basic science concepts to solve human disorders and develop treatments and therapies.”

Lauf has earned significant international recognition as a research scientist, including serving as a Research Fellow at the prestigious Max Plank Institute in Germany and on the faculty at the Duke University Medical Center.

Lauf chaired the WSU Department of Physiology and Biophysics from 1985 to 2003, when he was named University Professor at the Boonshoft School of Medicine and director of the Cell Biophysics Group. Adragna-Lauf’s career includes assignments at the National University of Buenos Aires in Argentina and the Harvard and Duke Medical Schools.
Research through the Decades

1990s: Research to Build Communities

Being the sixth of eight children may have helped Jane Dockery for her job as associate director of the Center for Urban and Public Affairs (CUPA). “Learning how to get along with people was installed in me at an early age.”

CUPA’s mission is to help individuals, organizations, and communities solve problems, primarily by providing information and data analysis to inform strategic decisions. Much of its work is in economic development, community development, and resource development, focusing on topics such as industry trends, housing, and health.

In the early 1990s, CUPA conducted industry wage and benefit surveys for employers in the region. What began as surveys to learn what people earned evolved into surveys to help employers determine how to do more with less, and what skill sets employers and employees would need. Along with the raw data, employers wanted to know what the data meant and what the community should be doing in response to the data. CUPA became more than an information provider, as communities and organizations required CUPA to help them interpret and apply data to decision making.

In the mid 1990s, CUPA implemented a new organizational structure. Instead of several research associates supporting a principal investigator, the new model made the research associates responsible for building their own research niche and obtaining funding to support their research. The results were dramatic.

For example, CUPA’s health research took off during the 1990s, and continues today. For its nine-county health care survey, CUPA worked with nine different health districts and the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, analyzing health trends and helping communities interpret the results. CUPA interviewed 4,000 people and worked with 219 different agencies to develop nine county-level strategic plans and a regional strategic plan.

“Just getting people to the table where they were sharing ideas made a big difference,” she said. “Several of the county health districts began to work together to a greater degree than before the project. For example, they proposed collaborative grant proposals to the Ohio Department of Health. That paved the way for them to work very effectively together when Wright State instituted the new Master’s in Public Health (MPH) program.”

Dockery is working with several economic development and workforce organizations and committees that are addressing the economic transition affecting the Dayton region and other regions in Ohio.

The level and complexity of projects continue to increase. The number of research sponsors, collaborators, and topics are growing, as are the expectations for high-level analytical techniques and quick project turnarounds.

Dockery and Jack Dustin, chair and associate professor of urban affairs and geography and CUPA director, directed a statewide research effort entitled The State of Ohio’s Urban Regions. The project addressed nine urban topics, including land use issues, health care access, educational divides, economic development, and more. Nine research teams worked at eight different universities, culminating in a statewide forum with the governor.

In the 2000s:
Brian Rigling typifies many competitive young researchers leading Wright State into exciting new technology areas.

To understand Brian Rigling’s work in waveform diversity, first picture a group of people in a room. Then ask yourself, “How can different groups have conversations without getting in the way of each other?”

Similar problems arise in the radio frequency (RF) spectrum, with commercial radio and TV, wireless communications, and radar all competing for airtime and spectrum. Waveform diversity researchers have developed sophisticated mathematics and intelligent algorithms to address these issues. However, can these methods be realized in practice?

To answer this question, Rigling, an assistant professor of electrical engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, collaborates with a local company to develop simulations of real hardware components in order to test the algorithms and the theory constructed by waveform diversity researchers.

Rigling asked, “When you use real hardware to build a system, it’s going to have imperfections. Is your algorithm robust enough to survive a hardware implementation with all of its imperfections?”

Rigling’s work has applications in academic, military, and industrial arenas. His research interests include sensor signal processing, which includes synthetic aperture radar (SAR), radar that uses special signal processing to produce high-resolution images of the Earth’s surface or another object while transversing a considerable flight path. SAR is extremely valuable in both military and civil remote-sensing applications. It provides surface mapping regardless of darkness or weather conditions that hamper other methods.

For the Air Force, Rigling is researching methods for radar imaging of the ground and methods for automatic recognition of targets. Both of these problems require an understanding of electromagnetic scattering: in other words, what happens when radio waves bounce off things.

To help understand how radio frequencies interact with their environment, or how radar interacts with its target, Rigling developed software for high-frequency prediction of electromagnetic scattering that he calls the Raider Tracer. Raider Tracer uses sensor data to picture a group of people in a room. Then ask yourself, “How can different groups have conversations without getting in the way of each other?”

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In partnership with the Air Force Research Laboratory, Rigling and his collaborators in the Department of Electrical Engineering received $1 million in funding to study Sensor Aided Vigilance, or SAVig. People can keep an eye on things by using video monitors, but sensors can hear and detect abnormalities at longer range and with greater persistence than the camera and human eye can see.

The idea behind SAVig is to detect abnormal activities. If a large truck stops in front of a building, and the driver gets out and runs away, then something is probably amiss.

“Can we have sensors watching a road all the time to try and detect when someone may pose a threat?” Rigling asked.

For four years prior to joining the Wright State faculty in 2004, Rigling was a systems engineer for Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems in Baltimore, leading a team of engineers in several internal research and development efforts involving SAR.
Savvy businessman and venture capitalist turned philanthropist, Matt Diggs, and his wife, Nancy, believe in giving back to the community in ways that can make a real difference. So when they were searching for a way to honor their son, Matthew O. Diggs III, who passed away six years ago, the new life sciences building under construction at Wright State seemed like the perfect fit. In recognition of their generous gift, the new state-of-the-art laboratory facility will be named the Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Science Research.

“We’d been looking for a long time for a very meaningful way to honor our son’s memory,” said Nancy. “And this was something that we and our family felt was an appropriate tribute to him. He was very interested in science and into adventure and discovery, which is what I think science is all about.”

With a degree in mechanical engineering at Purdue and an MBA from Harvard, Matt served as president and CEO of Copeland Corp., a position he held until his retirement in 1986. He has spent the last 15 years in the private equity business as a general partner of McClintock Industries. Matt served on the WSU Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2005 and as board chair from 2000 to 2002.

Fluent in French, Spanish, and German, Nancy worked as a translator while their four children were young. An interest in non-Western languages sparked a desire to return to college. She went on to earn her Master of Humanities degree at Wright State and a Ph.D. at the Union Institute in Cincinnati. An accomplished author, she has published three books about Japanese culture, co-authored two other books, and has just finished a book about undocumented Hispanic immigrants in the Midwest.

The couple believe that education is the ticket to the American dream. “I know what education did for me in my life, and I believe making contributions to education is very compelling.”

As a member of Ohio’s Third Frontier Commission, Matt understands the vital importance of higher education and research to the economic future of Ohio. “The jobs that are going to be created are going to be the knowledge jobs,” he said. “You need a scientifically literate work force and you need scientists.”

The new Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Science Research, scheduled to open late this year, will help produce those scientists of tomorrow. The 48,000-square-foot facility will provide cutting-edge research laboratories to train master’s and doctoral students and conduct research in the booming life science field. “The discoveries and the advancements made in this field are going to be extraordinary,” said Matt. “It’s one of those opportunities that comes along once in every few generations.”

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Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Science Research

More than 300 guests gathered on the WSU campus for the annual gala honoring those who have given generously to Wright State. During the festivities, President Goldenberg paid tribute to Malte von Matthiessen and Dan Duval, co-chairs of the campaign, for their dedicated campaign leadership. Also recognized were Ron Ames, who led the alumni phase of the campaign, and Jack Dustin, who headed up the Wright State Family Fund portion of the campaign. Michael DiFlora, chair of the WSU Foundation, announced the creation of the new Kim Goldenberg Society, recognizing donors of $2.5 million and above.

“This generous outpouring of support exceeded our boldest dreams,” said Marcia Muller, WSU vice president for university advancement. “Our donors have affirmed Wright State’s incredible value as a community treasure.”
In February, Wright State colleges and schools recognized outstanding alumni from their respective programs at an awards brunch. Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, the event introduced WSU’s new president, David Hopkins, to the awardees and their family and friends who attended. “The true measure of a university is the success of its alumni,” said Hopkins. “The success and talent of those being honored today make us proud of not only their accomplishments but also of Wright State.”
Lake Campus

John Granger, ’79 B.S.Ed., ’83 M.Ed.

John Granger is superintendent of the Anthony Wayne Local Schools in Whitehouse, Ohio. Named superintendent in 2004, he oversees a district that included 4,300 students in grades K–12 during the 2005–2006 academic year. The district received a designation of “excellent” during its most recent survey from the State of Ohio, and the district met or exceeded all 25 state indicators.

Previously, Granger was superintendent of the Anna Schools from 1997–2006. While superintendent of the Williams County Schools from 1993–1997, he helped establish the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, a merger of the educational service centers of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams counties. He was also superintendent of the Edgerton Schools from 1989–1993.

Granger also served as a fellow, graduate assistant, and adjunct professor at Wright State, Miami University, Bowling Green State University, Tri-State University, and Defiance College.

Granger earned a Ph.D. in educational administration and personnel from Miami University.

“As a student at the Lake Campus, I was afforded an opportunity to receive a quality education that carried over to my transfer to the main campus. It helped make me who I am today.”

Raj Soin College of Business

Jamie King, ’80 B.B.

Jamie King is CEO of Crowe Manufacturing Services. In 1988, King tapped into her life savings, took out a second mortgage, and borrowed $1 million to buy Crowe Manufacturing Services, a contract manufacturer that also makes valves and linkage assemblies. Under King’s leadership, the company expanded its service, tripled the number of employees, and earned numerous quality awards.

King and her company have been recognized with the Entrepreneur of the Year award; Dayton Small Business of the Year; the Ohio Governor’s Award for Women’s Excellence in Enterprise; and the Toastmaster’s Club Award for Communications Excellence. She has been on the boards of the Dayton Development Coalition, the Ohio Manufacturer’s Association, Key Bank for the Southern Ohio District, and the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Named one of Dayton’s Ten Top Women in 2002, King is currently a member of the Wright State University Board of Trustees. She has mentored students through the Student Alumni Connections program in the Raj Soin College of Business for several years. She is on the executive committee and finance committee for the Dayton Foundation, and is a director and chair of the audit committee for Friedman’s Jewelry in Savannah, Georgia.

“We get to be who we are because of the education that carried over to my transfer to the main campus. It helped make me who I am today.”

WSU–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health

Mary E. Murphy, ’89 M.S.

Mary E. Murphy is director of clinical systems and oncology clinical nurse specialist for Hospice of Dayton. As director of the Focused Care Team, a team of skilled nurses with extensive clinical expertise, Murphy manages delivery of specific individualized end-of-life care for hospice patients. She coordinates a team that may include an oncologist, primary care physician, respiratory therapist, social worker, bereavement specialist, massage therapist, art or music therapist, R.N. case manager, and volunteers.

Murphy has published several articles and has presented on such topics as the care of hospice patients, nursing home care, and oncology.

“The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization awarded Murphy the National Heart of Hospice Award for Excellence in Management. She was named Hospice Caregiver of the Year by the Ohio Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Murphy was also the 2005 Salute the Nurse award winner from the Dayton Daily News.

“I accept this award on behalf of all those involved in oncology and palliative care. Nurses are at the forefront of the healthcare community. I especially want to thank Dr. Pat Martin, who encouraged me to go ahead with my education and to always ask ‘why?’”

College of Engineering and Computer Science

Stephen J. Solch, ’78 B.S.; ’81 M.S.

Stephen J. Solch is president of Digital Concepts Incorporated (DCI). With $800, Solch co-founded DCI with his partner Richard Wegmann in 1984. Sales now exceed $3 million. DCI provides information technology solutions to the Department of Defense to improve information systems for the nation’s military. DCI currently holds a 10-year contract to streamline Air Force logistics processes.

Solch and Wegmann established a subsidiary, BusinessLabs Inc. in the late 1990s as a commercial business consulting and information technology organization. BusinessLabs helps clients increase their bottom line by improving core business processes in logistics/distribution, manufacturing, and finances.

A member of the Wright State University College of Engineering and Computer Science External Advisory Board (EAB) since 1991, Solch helps advise the college on issues affecting the preparation of engineering and computer science students for the working world. Solch was awarded the Dayton Area Technology Network Achievement Award for innovations in computer technology.

“I thank the college for the excellent education I received. Getting two degrees, it was a ton of work, and I didn’t realize the payoff it would be. My experience at Wright State helped me formulate a goal in life and go for it.”

College of Science and Mathematics

Michael W. Zebrowski, ’75 B.S.

Michael W. Zebrowski is manager of geoscience development for Amerada Hess Corporation in Houston, Texas. The first student to graduate from the Department of Geological Sciences Geophysics option.

Since joining Amerada Hess, Zebrowski has played an innovative role as both a geologist and geophysetist in the global search for energy. He has contributed to a number of significant oil and gas field discoveries.

Over the years, Zebrowski has been instrumental in obtaining scholarship grants from the Hess Foundation for Wright State. He has helped WSU obtain equipment and software and is currently developing a collaborative effort between Garyounis University in Libya, Wright State, and Hess on several projects with Hess’s Libyan concessions.

A member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and Denver Geophysical Society, Zebrowski has presented at numerous universities and professional conferences. He serves on the advisory board of Knowledge Systems Incorporated, which provides technical services to the energy and drilling industries.

“The education I received at Wright State was invaluable. When it comes to the geosciences, Wright State’s curriculum is very practically orientated, providing skills to go right out in the field. Now, I want to do what I can to give back to the university.”

“As a student at the Lake Campus, I was afforded an opportunity to receive a quality education that carried over to my transfer to the main campus. It helped make me who I am today.”

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“Thank you.”
Turning Obstacles Into Opportunities

By Aimee Bower

For college graduates, facing the job market can be intimidating. The competition can be tough, even for the most experienced and seemingly qualified candidates. So consider the challenge for Tykiah Wright, a young African American woman with muscular dystrophy and limited on-the-job experience. For many, the outlook might seem bleak.

Fortunately, Tykiah Wright has a history of approaching life with unique ambition. After becoming the first high school cheerleader in her hometown of Columbus, Ohio, to use a wheelchair, Wright went on to earn both a human resource management degree (’00) and an M.B.A. (’01) from Wright State University. While at WSU, Wright says, admittedly, she was reluctant to take internships, “to put herself out there.” Eventually, though, she took student positions with Goodwill of Dayton and the U.S. Department of Energy, where she discovered something invaluable—proof that, with on-the-job experience, she was capable and qualified, despite the obstacles others predicted might get in the way.

When she looked around, Wright discovered many of her peers were looking for that same opportunity. Inspired by her own internships, Wright decided she had just enough real-world experience to fuel an upstart business that could open the doors of employment for others, just like the ones that had been opened for her.

In 2001, she started WrightChoice, Inc., to help students with disabilities, minorities, and women find internships. The Columbus-based company is designed to “build the bridge of opportunity” between these students and central Ohio businesses like BMW Financial Services and the Columbus Zoo, among others—and to provide diversity-related training programs to area business partners.

“Tykiah has forged a new direction for herself and individuals with disabilities by creating this nonprofit organization that talks about and makes PBS programs,” says Jeff Vernooy, director of Wright State’s Office of Disability Services.

According to Vernooy, the secret to the success of Wright’s operation is helping students find experience before they graduate—a technique that proves to work.

This year, Wright was recognized by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) for her standout efforts as a leader with disabilities. She is one of two recipients nationally of the G. LeRoy AAPD Leadership Award, for which she will receive $10,000 to further her work.

“I think the award will allow the program to gain national exposure and networking possibilities,” says Wright of her honor. “Employment for people with disabilities needs to be a national movement.”

Her advice: “I always encourage students to take advantage of all the resources in the college setting. Make sure you utilize networking opportunities, and balance academics with leadership. Companies look at students who can bring something to the table in terms of leadership.”

—TYKIAH WRIGHT

CLASS OF 1970

Judith Ellen Barnett Black (B.S.) is retired from a 25-year teaching career at the Greene County Vocational Career Center. Her career also included serving for eight years as a member of the Sugarcreek School Board and two years on the Greene County Vocational School Board. During her time at Wright State, she worked as an assistant to the registrar and served as the first WSU cheerleader advisor.

CLASS OF 1976

Christopher W. Warner, Ph.D. (B.S.) was appointed director, Global Clinical Development, North America, for Kandia, a leading, global full-service clinical research organization. In this position, he is responsible for the design of Phase I–III clinical development projects for the company’s pharma- macological customers, provides strategic oversight for projects, and serves as a primary interface with the company’s customers. Serving most recently as executive director, Clinical Research, Sales Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Warner oversees the development and implementation of numerous different protocols in a variety of different indications, and was responsible for updating and approving clinical SOPs. Prior to that, he worked for Pfizer Inc., Procure & Gamble Pharmaceuticals, and Glaxo Inc. During his tenure with these firms, he was responsible for delivering two NDAs and one ANDA. He also worked in academia and brings more than 30 years of experience to his role. His former academic position was the chair of the department of pharmacology and human anatomy at the University of Cincinnati. He is currently responsible for more than 30 journal articles and abstracts, and is a member of the American College of Gastrenterology.

CLASS OF 1981

Dave Gibson (M.Ed.) retired after 18 years as executive director of SOSTA (School of the Future), an affiliate of Miami University. Gibson was honored in 2004 as Wright State’s Alumnus of the Year in the field of Educational Leadership. Gibson lives in Butler County with his wife Denise (B.S.), media director for the Madison Local Schools, and their two teenage sons.

CLASS OF 1982

Robert J. Karl, JD (B.A.), is one of 30 attorneys of the law firm Ulmer & Barme, LLP, recognized by The Best Lawyers in America. Karl chairs the firm’s Environmental Law Group and also focuses on real estate, business law, and environmental litigation. Mr. Karl represents business entities, developers, farmers, and municipal clients in all phases of environmental compliance, permitting, and litigation. He once was the assistant Ohio attorney general, Environmental Enforcement Section, where he managed and supervised water and multimedia civil enforcement actions in various courts and administrative actions faced by the Environmental Review Appeals Commission. Mr. Karl is past Ohio representative for the National Association of Attorneys General and the past co-chair for the Environmental Section of the Columbus Bar Association. Ulmer & Barme, LLP, is a major Ohio-based law firm with four offices throughout the Midwest. Inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America is based entirely on the peer reviews of 1.8 million confidential evaluations by only the top attorneys in the country.

CLASS OF 1986

Laura Mercer (B.S.) has been named manager of research at Sinclair Community College. Working with internal and external constituencies, she is responsible for managing the institution’s research agenda, state reporting, the development and interpretation of effectiveness measures, and the enhancement of the institution’s decision support capabilities. Mercer has over 20 years experience in higher education and has held a variety of roles at Sinclair since 1986. She holds a master’s degree from Wright State University, a master’s degree in education from George Washington University, and a juris doctorate in construction law.

CLASS OF 1989

Kyla Hinkock, (B.M.A.), an Edward Jones investment representative in Dunning, N.C., for 15 years, was named a principal with the firm’s holding company, the Jones

Film Grad Travels the World Documenting Unique People in Remote Areas

Brent Huffman and Xiaoli Zhou pose with Zum Kang Tash, also referred to as the Flapping Left, a direct descendant of the seventh Dalai Lama and devoted animal lover and activist. Photo courtesy of Brent Huffman.

Brent Huffman (B.F.A.) and Xiaoli Zhou, part of a husband and wife team of documentary filmmakers, have been making social issues documentaries for the past 10 years, working in the United States and around the world. Their work has aired on the National Geographic Channel, The Discovery Channel, CNN, PBS (Frontline/World), Al Jazeera, and Current TV. As a director and cinematographer, Huffman has received a number of awards, including a College Emmy, a CINE Golden Eagle, a Grand Jury Award at AF’s Silverdocs 2004, and a Student Academy Award. As an editor, he also worked on Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar’s acclaimed PBS documentary series A Lion In the House, about children battling cancer. In 1998, Huffman started the documentary production company German Camera Productions.

For his China Diaries series for PBS Frontline, the duo directed, filmed, and edited a five-part series about their travels across Asia, reporting on endangered wildlife and minority cultures. Huffman plans to turn his experiences into a book on the subject.

He is currently working on five documentaries for The Discovery Channel about vanishing ethnic tribes and endangered animals in remote corners in Asia. In addition, he photographed and co-wrote an article for the April/May edition of Bust magazine called “The City of Women” about the last matriarchy in southwestern China near Tibet. Huffman is also an instructor at the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California, in the Visual Journalism department.

For more information about Huffman’s work, go to: www.germancamera.com
**Alumni Notes**

**Community**

6

**Athletics**

**By Richard Duty**

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**Magical Season**

**Hard Work, High Expectations Spurred Mid-Season Turn Around**

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**Red Tail Reborn**

A documentary film on the Tuskegee Airmen, directed by White, an Emmy award-winning cinematographer. The event was sponsored by the University Libraries, the Aviation Heritage Foundation, and the Friends of the Libraries.

White is with Hemlock Productions in Cleveland. He has 15 years of experience in motion pictures and won a regional Emmy for his film The Restorers, a documentary about individuals who restore vintage airplanes. Red Tail Reborn is narrated by actor Michael Dorn of Star Trek fame, and includes a two-disc DVD.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first and only African American pilots of their generation. The documentary covers how they dealt with segregation from white squads and includes many interviews with the legendary airmen. The documentary title is based on the Red Tail Project, a program to educate America about the Tuskegee Airmen. The tragic death of pilot Don Hinz, who died while touring the country in a P-51 Mustang as part of the Red Tail Project, is included in the film.

For more information about the film and Red Tail Project, go to http://www.redtail.org/

**Tuskegee Airman Documentary Directed by Wright State Film Graduate**

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into a pretty good team and could challenge for the championship." Brownell knows about championships, he came to Wright State in March of 2006 from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, where his last team posted a 23-8 record and won the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament. He brought an 83-40 career coaching mark to Wright State, including two NCAA tournament appearances with UNCW in four years there as the head coach. He was named Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year twice and selected national mid major Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year twice and selected national mid major Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and selected Coach of the Year twice and selected NCAA Coach of the Year twice and 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Sports Wrap Up

**Swimming and Diving**  
**Men 9-2, Women 6-6**

The Wright State men placed first and the women third at the Horizon League Swimming and Diving Championships in Chicago in February. Leading the way for the Raider men was Scott Lang, who won the 1650 free (15:42.04), and Aaron Eckstein, who won the 200 back (1:49.03). The men won their first title since 2005 and claimed their eighth conference title overall.

On the women’s side, Catalina Martinez won her third straight Horizon League title in the 1650 free (17:14.34) while Brittiany Czoch was second in the 200 fly (2:08.88).

Wright State received two postseason honors with Lang being named the Horizon League Swimmer of the Meet and Sion Brinn selected as the Horizon League Men’s Swimming Coach of the Year.

**Cross Country**  
**Men 20-83, Women 34-54**

The men’s cross country team was honored by the United States Track and Field & Cross Country Coaches Association as an All-Academic team. The Raiders were one of 85 teams honored by the USTFCCCA and one of only two Horizon League teams honored, joining Detroit. The award is bestowed upon teams that participate in the NCAA Regional Championship meet and post a cumulative team GPA of 3.25 or higher. The Raiders have posted a cumulative GPA of 3.707, the highest mark among Division I teams.

**Softball**  
**Won: 25-33, 8-10 Horizon League**

After finishing seventh in the Horizon League regular season standings, the Raiders caught fire in the postseason, winning four straight to win the League tournament title and advance to the NCAA Regionals in Evanston, Illinois. Several players received postseason honors, led by Jamie Perkins being named the tournament MVP and winning the Pitching Award. Also named to the All-Tournament Team were Allison Cox, Kristen Farley, Malerie Klingler, and Jacqueline Macy while Briana Birl was chosen for the Defensive Award. Jerica Williams was selected as the Horizon League Newcomer of the Year and was also First Team All-Horizon League, while Kristen Bradshaw was named to the Second Team and Perkins joined Williams on the All-Newcomer Team.

For season summaries about other WSU sports, including tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, volleyball, golf, and baseball, go to www.wsuraiders.com
Holly Rakes was a stay-at-home mother of four when her husband left. Her family convinced her she needed to go back to school. Within three months, she was majoring in computer science at Wright State, thanks to a Wilda Murray Ehrenfried Scholarship for mothers of dependent children.

The scholarship was started by the family of Wilda Murray Ehrenfried as a 90th birthday present to honor her sacrifices as a working mother. WSU alumnus and employee Bill Shepard suggested the scholarship to his wife, Cyndi, Wilda’s granddaughter. “I thought it was a great idea,” she said, “because she was always pushing her granddaughters to go to college so they would have options in their lives.”

The scholarship has paid dividends far beyond the financial support it offers. “Sometimes as a single mom, you feel guilty for the things you’re not doing with your kids,” Holly said. “And to see that Wilda’s kids have established a scholarship in her name shows they have great respect for her as a mom and what she did. She went through it, and her kids have grown up to honor that sacrifice.”

HOLLY RAKES

College of Engineering and Computer Science, Computer Science major

Wilda Murray Ehrenfried Scholarship recipient
1. Name three names that the former eatery in the basement of Millett Hall have been called?

2. What musical theatrical production has been staged the most times at Wright State?

3. Where was the Women’s Center located when it first opened in 1993?

4. Approximately how long is the underground tunnel system which connects buildings on campus?

5. What is the name of the family cemetery located on campus?

6. What geological feature on campus is named for a Greek mythological figure?

7. Which campus housing facility is specifically geared to students with families or partners, or students 23 years of age or older?

8. How many presidential candidates have visited campus?

9. What was the name of the made-for-TV movie, starring Jud Hirsch, that centered on student Nan Davis and WSU researchers’ work with paralyzed muscles?

10. Before Wright State had an official mascot in the persona of a Viking, what were the WSU Raiders known as?

11. When was the first annual International Friendship Affair held?

12. How many acres does the WSU main campus comprise?

13. What was the first Ph.D. program instituted at Wright State?

14. What is the name of the metal sculpture located on the Quad in the mid-1970’s?

15. In the 1970’s, what triple header bluegrass concert was the first musical concert to be held in the physical education gym, with a ticket price of $3?

16. What recording artist followed his concert in the physical education building’s gym with an impromptu basketball game with students?

17. Which WSU president was an accomplished composer?

18. Name the WSU alumnus who was songwriter and founder of the popular music group, Guided By Voices. He also pitched the first no-hitter for WSU baseball.

19. What was the fall quarter tuition for WSU in 1967, WSU’s first year as its own state university?

20. How many schools and colleges are at Wright State?

21. What team did the Raiders defeat to win the Division II 1983 National Championship?

22. Name the WSU pitcher who pitched in the 2001 World Series for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

23. Name the WSU basketball player selected as the 12th overall pick in the 1991 NBA draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

24. Name the WSU golfer who currently plays on the PGA tour?

25. Name the WSU swimmer who participated in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

26. What popular annual event features roving musicians, dances, mimes, and court jesters celebrating the spirit of a medieval holiday?

27. What year did the Dayton Bombers make the Nutter Center its new home?

28. How many buildings comprise The Woods housing community?

29. What is the name of the brick-and-glass sculpture with colorized concrete pavement located between Allyn and Rike Halls?

30. What was WSU’s Lake Campus first called when it became affiliated with Wright State?

31. The WSU Lake Campus is located on the shore of what body of water?

32. What is the name of the academic home and primary portal of access to the university for most undergraduate students?

33. What university president was once a NASA engineer whose work included testing critical components for the first manned landing on the moon?

34. What WSU precollege program was named in 1991 by President George H. W. Bush as the 384th Daily Point of Light in his 1,000 Points of Light program?

35. University Libraries is a member of what organization that connects it with the holdings of all of Ohio’s public universities, 23 community/technical colleges, 44 private colleges, and the State Library of Ohio?

36. What was the name of the primary road that bordered the WSU campus before it was renamed Colonel Glenn Highway?

37. What WSU civilian medical residency program is the longest running in the nation?

38. What percentage of WSU’s 75,000 graduates currently live in the Miami Valley?

39. How many Ph.D. programs does WSU offer?

40. Name the four campus buildings that are named after WSU’s founders and comprise the Campus Quad: