FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

IN FALL 2009, we began a new alumni engagement initiative called “Wright State on the Road.” Over the last several months, I have had the great pleasure of traveling throughout the country and across the 16-county region we call “Raider Country” to meet hundreds of Wright State University’s accomplished alumni.

It has been a real privilege to visit with our graduates, find out what’s going on in their lives, and share with them the many exciting and innovative projects that are happening at Wright State. While everyone has a different story, the one thing all of our alumni have in common is their tremendous pride in Wright State.

In this issue of Community you’ll meet some of the friends I have made “on the road.” People like Rob and Ann Weisgarber, who are selflessly giving back to their alma mater through endowed scholarships. Warm and down-to-earth, Rob and Ann immediately put everyone at ease with their gracious Texas hospitality.

My visit to Washington, DC, would not have been complete without meeting Jim and Linda Augustine. This couple truly has a passion for helping others. An emergency physician, Jim travels the country to advise emergency departments on how to improve their operations and develop innovative ways to provide emergency care. A registered nurse, Linda teaches flight attendants and pilots how to handle medical emergencies in the air.

And what a joy it was to meet Kathy Hood, administrative director for the drama division at Juilliard, and renowned author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. All of these individuals are shining examples of the quality education Wright State provides and how we prepare our graduates to go out into the world and make a difference.

Another favorite moment for me during the Wright State on the Road events is seeing how alumni react to a PowerPoint presentation of nearly 200 photographs of our campus and students. Many of our graduates have not visited campus in years, so they are in utter amazement at how much we have grown and changed.

If you haven’t been to campus in a while, please pay us a visit. I want you to always feel that you have a home and a family at Wright State. And please join us at an upcoming Wright State on the Road event in a city near you.

I look forward to meeting you and hearing your favorite memories of Wright State.

Warmest regards from campus,

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

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

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

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

“Premier Health Partners and Miami Valley Hospital have enjoyed a strong relationship for many years with Wright State and the school of medicine. Many medical students, residents, and nurses received their clinical training at our hospital,” said Mary Boosalis, president and chief executive officer of Miami Valley Hospital. “This partnership helps us to expand our capacity for innovation and will carry our community into a new age of discovery and leadership in the areas of science and medicine. This announcement will place us at the forefront of leading scientific research and positions both Miami Valley and the Boonshoft School of Medicine as being national leaders in the study of neurological science.”

Neurological disorders afflict tens of millions of Americans. They include common disorders such as stroke, neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s disease); multiple sclerosis, neuromuscular disorders, and traumatic injury; and nervous system complications caused by diabetes, chemotherapy, or peripheral nerve injury. Many of these common disorders impact the patient’s ability to control movement, ranging from the ability to walk to the control of fine hand movements.

“ATtracting sufficient numbers of clinical neurologists to serve our community has been an ongoing challenge,” said Molly Hall, M.D., chief academic officer and vice president of academic affairs for Premier Health Partners. “This new partnership will help attract additional neurology specialists, provide improved access to neurological care in the area, and enhance the ability of Wright State’s researchers to attract federal grants and major clinical trials to this region.”

The Centers of Excellence in BioHealth Innovation are composed of three Wright State centers—the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute, the National Center for Medical Readiness, and the Center of Excellence in Knowledge-Enabled Computing.

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

Wright State’s centers were among those recognized at 14 Ohio universities for excellence in biomedical and health care.

“The biomedical and health care sectors are two of the fastest growing industries in the country,” said Fingerhut. “Each Center of Excellence brings unique approaches that together, will drive economic growth and establish Ohio as the national leader in biomedical and health care.”

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

On February 19, Governor Ted Strickland and Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, recognized Wright State University’s Centers of Excellence in BioHealth Innovation as Ohio Centers of Excellence in Biomedicine and Health Care.

From seven different databases, streaming access to medical records. Dr. Amit Sheth, professor of computer science and engineering and LexisNexis Ohio Emirit Scholar, serves as the center’s director.

Wright State’s Center of Excellence in Human-Centered Innovation was designated as an Ohio Center of Excellence in November 2009. Focused on developing systems, technologies, processes, and organizational changes that enhance work, play, travel, education, and health. The center operates under the leadership of Dr. Jennie Gallimore, professor of biomedical, industrial, and human factors engineering.

“Some of Wright State’s most talented and innovative faculty are directing our Centers of Excellence. We would not have received this important recognition without their dedication and the hard work of all of the other faculty members and students who are developing projects that can change lives and transform this region,” said Hopkins. “They reflect the best that Wright State has to offer. I am proud and grateful for all they have accomplished.”

The Centers of Excellence, as outlined in Ohio’s 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education, will position the University System of Ohio to be a magnet for talent and a leader in innovation and entrepreneurial activity by developing distinct missions for each institution that are recognized by students, faculty, and business leaders, while eliminating unnecessary competition for resources, students, and faculty within the state.
Documentary filmmakers nominated for an Academy Award

Hoping to bring an Oscar statue back to Dayton, documentary filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar walked the red carpet at the Academy Awards with members of their cast and crew on March 7.

While the film they produced and directed—The Last Truck: Closing or a GM Plant—fell short of an Oscar, Reichert and Bognar felt honored by the nomination and the attention it brought to their story and Wright State.

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

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

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

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

“Wright State University is extremely proud of our filmmakers and the rest of the Wright State family that helped create the film,” said David D. Hopkins, president of Wright State.

“The nomination is a tribute to the extraordinary talent of our faculty and students and is shared with our motion picture graduates living all over the country.”

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

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

“It’s very bittersweet. It’s the kind of film you wish you didn’t have to make,” Reichert said.

Speaking on national television, actor Tom Hanks lauded Reichert, Bognar, and the Wright State graduates and faculty members who helped make the film. In a live segment on MSNBC’s Morning Joe news program, Hanks described The Last Truck as a “backbreaking piece of work.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I thought (it would) be great to bring the Oscar to Dayton. We lost those 1,100 workers. We lost their jobs,” Reichert said. “It would have been great to bring the Oscar to Dayton. It’s a huge loss.”

“I’m not even going to think about Oscar news,” Bognar said. “Absolutely not. It’s going to be a big downer on our spirits.”

Reichert said she and Bognar are proud of the Wright State program because of the incredible platform the film has created for doc filmmakers.

“Anyone who’s never watched a documentary before and this is their first exposure to a documentary, I think they’ll have a new respect for the kind of work that goes into creating that,” Reichert said. “It’s going to bring awareness to the work that’s being done and the importance of the subject.”

The film’s看作是 one of the top 10 films of the year on several prominent surveys.

Reichert is a two-time Academy Award nominee for Best Feature Documentary for Seeing Red and Union Maids. These films and two others, Growing Up Female and Methadone—An American Way of Life—and was screened nationally in the U.S. on PBS.

Bognar and Reichert are currently working on several other projects, some of which are keeping them under wraps. They recently finished editing 30 years of documentaries on laborers around the world—from coal miners to sugar cane workers—and selecting 17 films to be shown at the Full Frame Festival in Durham, N.C.

Filmmakers Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert (foreground) with Kate Geiger, Joyce Gilbert, Losi Carter, Kim Clay, and Paul ’Prayee’ Hurst—former GM workers featured in the documentary The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant.
Creating a Legacy of Giving

By Kim Patton

Wright State University is where Rob and Ann Weisgarber met and fell in love. Now more than three decades later, the Sugar Land, Texas, couple is giving back to their alma mater by endowing scholarships for future generations of Wright State students.

When Ann Wall Weisgarber ’76 and Rob Weisgarber ’77 think back to their days at Wright State, they recall fond memories of their classes and professors and having enjoyed all that the campus had to offer. “We had a total of three classes together, so we gradually got to know each other from our classes,” said Ann. “When we were dating, we did quite a few things together on campus—basketball games, concerts, lecture series.”

“We joined the riding club—it was a couple of bucks a month to ride the horses,” Rob recalled. “They had great concerts there—we saw George Carlin and a few of our best concerts we went to was a classical guitar concert. Hanging out on the Quad between classes was a lot of fun too.”

But Rob and Ann, who said he is always proud of how well Wright State’s graduates perform on the CPA exam every year, “I think it’s well recognized that the accounting program provides an excellent education and it has for all these years.”

It all started in a dugout

The thought of writing a novel had never crossed Ann Weisgarber’s mind—until one cold day in Iowa. Homesick for Texas and home alone while Rob was traveling on business, Ann decided she needed a personal challenge. “I thought ‘Why not write a book?’ That’s how naive I was about the whole process,” she recalled. “It was something I thought about and just wanted to see if I could do it. It all started because I always loved to read, but it was not a lifelong dream— at all.”

While Ann was called completely unprompted by her desire to write a book, it was a lesson that she hopes will inspire others. “You don’t have to be 20, you don’t have to be 30; you can start doing something different in your 40s,” she said.

Ann credits her Wright State education with helping her excel as a novelist. “That liberal arts background taught me very early on that there are many different points of view. It’s fun to assume a different point of view.”

And that’s exactly what Ann does in her debut novel, *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree*. The title character, an African American woman in 1917, struggles in the South Dakota Badlands with her husband and children. It is a rare glimpse into the lives of an African American ranch family in the American West.

Ann got the inspiration for the character of Rachel DuPree during a camping vacation to Badlands National Park. As she was touring a sod dugout called Prairie Homestead, she noticed an area of worn dirt around a cookstove. Ann realized that a woman once stood there for the better part of each day preparing food. A few days later, Ann stopped in a roadside museum where she saw a photograph of an African American woman sitting in front of a dugout. For Ann, the unnamed woman in the photograph had a story waiting to be told.

Over the next seven years, Ann would write the story of Rachel DuPree. She even paid homage to her hometown by having Rachel’s husband, Isaac, recite Jump Back, Honey—a poem by Dayton native and renowned African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. “That was definitely my nod to my hometown of Dayton,” Ann confessed, “because I remember as a kid reading about Paul Laurence Dunbar. He’s always been kind of a local hero to me.”

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In June 2008, Macmillan New Writing released *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree* in the United Kingdom. It received the 2009 Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction. Readers in the United States will soon have the opportunity to know Rachel DuPree. The novel is scheduled to make its U.S. debut in August 2010, when Viking Press releases it.

Ann is currently at work on her second novel about the 1900 Galveston hurricane that claimed 6,000 lives.

Giving back

After years of supporting Wright State’s Annual Fund and being lifetime members of the Alumni Association, the Weisgarbers began to think about the causes they would like to support in their retirement and even after their deaths. “We always came back to Wright State, because we both had such positive experiences there. We both felt we had such a good start in life by attending Wright State,” Rob explained.

So the couple decided to establish the Robert L. Weisgarber and Ann D. Weisgarber Endowed Scholarships. Rob’s scholarship will benefit students in the Raj Soin College of Business and Ann’s scholarship will support students in the College of Liberal Arts. Both scholarships take effect upon their deaths.

The Weisgarbers wanted to help students who might be struggling to pay for their Wright State education. As Rob explained, the scholarships would allow deserving students to spend more time studying than working, giving them the freedom to enjoy the full college experience “without having to juggle too many balls in the air at once with school and work.”

“It’s been a great pleasure,” said Ann. “It’s nice to think that the scholarships will help change people’s lives.” Ann also hopes that students who benefit from the scholarships will one day return the favor. “Even if it’s only five dollars, give a helping hand to someone else.”

While the Weisgarbers appreciate that not everyone is able to endowed a scholarship, they recognize that there are many other ways in which alumni can give back—“Donate your time—go to the ballgames, attend a concert, get involved,” said Ann.

And come back to campus to visit. “If you do live far away and get to Dayton, either on business or to visit family or friends, go by and see the university,” said Rob. “If it’s been years since you’ve been there, you’ll be amazed at how much it’s grown.”
Helping Children Heal

For child psychologist Sarah Fillingame ’83, working with young people has many rewards

By Jim Hannah

A career helping children deal with emotional issues calls for a fitting start. And it couldn’t have been more fitting for Dr. Sarah Fillingame, who studied for her doctorate in psychology in the classrooms of an elementary school.

The director of behavioral sciences at The Children’s Medical Center of Dayton graduated from Wright State University in 1983 after completing her studies at a former elementary school in suburban Kettering.

“At the time, the School of Professional Psychology—only in its second year—was housed there. It was unique and in my opinion really contributed to the closeness of the class,” Fillingame recalled. “We were completely separate from the rest of the university, so we had to kind of make do by ourselves.”

The school turned out to be a launching pad for soon-to-be-successful psychologists. “We had the benefit of having instructors who were some of the top names in the profession,” she said. “So that was just an incredible experience.”

Among them was Ronald Fox, the founding dean of the school who would later become president of the American Psychological Association. Fox said more than 700 people applied for 30 slots in the first class. “We had a very prestigious faculty,” Fox recalled. “We recruited from all over the country. We had a group of stars.”

Fox said starting the college in a former elementary school was pretty unusual. “The chalkboards were way low,” he said, laughing. “But being away from the main campus had its advantages. "We could just focus on ourselves and what it was we wanted to be," he said. "We were all involved in something new and different."”

Fox said Fillingame was a very solid student who needed little direction or supervision. “She was one of those kinds you would like all the other people to be like, but aren’t,” he said.

Fillingame made her way to Dayton in a roundabout way. She grew up in the New Mexico town of Las Cruces, next to the Rio Grande. She has wistful feelings about the experience, but only recently has come to realize how rich the Native American influence was.

Today, Fillingame wears an array of different hats. As director, she oversees the hospital’s psychology, social work, child life, and chaplaincy programs. As manager of the psychology department, she supervises seven psychologists and interns from Wright State’s School of Professional Psychology. She has trained more than 40 doctoral-level psychology students, who have gone on to become psychologists. She also works as a child psychologist in the hospital’s outpatient program and gives in-patient consults on children who also have medical disorders.

Fillingame helped to develop the Child Advocacy Center for the investigation and treatment of child abuse cases and still sits on the administrative board for that agency. In addition, Fillingame is working to expand the hospital’s autism program to families at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base under a $300,000 grant from the Department of Defense.

Col. (Dr.) Randall Zernach, a developmental pediatrician at Wright-Patterson Medical Center, said that in addition to researching the grant money is being used to educate parents about the needs of autistic children and to help autistic children in their teenage years develop social skills to better interact with their peers.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disability characterized by impairments in language and social communication. Zernach said the lifestyle of military families in which they are struggling with problems at home or school. “When things go well, seeing that turn around for them—that’s the big thing,” she said. “I see these kids at a point in their lives when it’s time to start healing. My job is to help eliminate their pain and distress. It’s wonderful.”

Fillingame has also started a biofeedback and pain management program at the hospital and is helping establish a sleeping disorders clinic. "When things go well, seeing that turn around for them—that’s the big thing,” she said. “I see these kids at a point in their lives when it’s time to start healing. My job is to help eliminate their pain and distress. It’s wonderful.”

People who have never been down there have no idea how unique and what a wonderful culture it is,” she said.

Fillingame attended New Mexico State University and then the University of Hawaii before getting her bachelor’s degree at the University of Dayton and then moving on to Wright State.

When it came time to launch her career, Fillingame wasn’t sure what area she wanted to pursue, but had a good idea what she didn’t want to do. “The one thing I knew for certain—and I said this to lots of people—was, ‘I don’t want to work with children,’” she recalled.

But then a friend pointed out that all of Fillingame’s school papers and projects were about children. So the budding psychologist decided to do her practicum—supervised practical application of college study—at a children’s program in Xenia in order to make sure she wasn’t making a mistake. “I loved it,” she said. “The rest is history.”

In 1985, Fillingame took a job as a staff psychologist at The Children’s Medical Center. Within four years, she was director of the program.
How valuable are internships in launching one’s career? Just ask Kathy Hood, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in directing/stage management from Wright State University in 1988. Like a character in a rags-to-riches novel, Hood made a real-life rise from the ranks of an intern to her current position as administrative director at The Juilliard School, Drama Division, in New York City.

Hood’s experiences at Wright State uniquely prepared her for her role at Juilliard, where each year she must help select a freshman class of just 18 actors from 1,000 applicants. “All of my early experiences have given me empathy and compassion for students who want to develop into artists,” she said. Dreaming of being an actress since she was a little girl, Hood came to Wright State to study acting. However, at the end of her sophomore year, she didn’t make the cut. “It was devastating at that moment in time,” she confessed. “I had no alternate plan.” She went directly to a summer job as an apprentice at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, one of America’s preeminent regional summer stock theaters in Massachusetts. During that summer, she was contacted by Wright State and offered a special scholarship to pursue a degree in directing and stage management. “It really changed my life,” she said. “A lot of schools might not see that there could be another kind of fit, but Wright State gave me a second chance.”

A faculty member of Wright State’s theatre department at the time, “Having someone believe in you and your potential makes all the difference,” she added. “Everything he gave me, I want to give back to other students.”

Hood works with James Houghton, a faculty member of Wright State’s theatre department at the time, “Having someone believe in you and your potential makes all the difference,” she added. “Everything he gave me, I want to give back to other students.”

Hood is still in contact with one of her mentors, Bob Hetherington, a faculty member of Wright State’s theatre department at the time, “Having someone believe in you and your potential makes all the difference,” she added. “Everything he gave me, I want to give back to other students.”

Hood works with James Houghton, Richard Rodgers Director of the Drama Division, in running the Juilliard Drama program. In this role, she focuses on producing, admissions, and administrative endeavors, as well as directly supporting and nurturing students. “We’re guardians for the students, and I feel we have these precious people in our hands and I undertake that responsibility with great care, sensibility, responsibility, and integrity,” she said.

“Often working 14-hour days, Hood is the producer for all of Juilliard’s drama productions, hiring directors and designers and managing budgets. In fact, it was in that role that she met her husband, a professional lighting designer who works all over the country and internationally.”

“It really changed my life. A lot of schools might not see that there could be another kind of fit, but Wright State gave me a second chance.”

—KATHY HOOD

The two had become friends, but during the production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, fate stepped in—and fate had four legs. Hood’s dog, Sam, was in the production and her future husband, Peter, was the first person the dog approached. “I think my dog knew before I did,” she confided.

Hood’s husband is not the only object of her affection. “The first day I moved here, I fell in love with New York City… the cultural opportunities, the incredible diversity, the history,” she said. “There’s nothing I love more than walking through the different neighborhoods.” She commutes an hour each way from Brooklyn to Lincoln Center. “The skyline makes my heart skip a beat.”

Hood is president of the board of directors of Red Bull Theater, a theater company presenting classical works. A self-professed amateur oenophile (wine connoisseur), she belongs to a food co-op where all food is grown locally and organically. She’s also a passionate New York Yankees fan.
At Last, the announcement comes: “Thunderbirds, let’s run ‘em up.” Thousands of people are now on their feet, cameras are poised, children jump up and down in anticipation, the news media is on standby. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Flight Demonstration Team rolls down the heat-shimmering runway and blasting away to create thunder in the sky. At air shows around the world, the six F-16 jets with their distinct red, white, and blue Thunderbird insignia wow the crowd with cutting-edge aerial maneuvers. With unbelievable accuracy, the F-16s fly as close as three feet apart, and as low as 150 feet off the ground. Speeds can reach 500 miles per hour. The Thunderbirds demonstrate a boldness and beauty unmatched anywhere.

In the cockpit of Thunderbird #1, heading up the entire team, is a graduate of Wright State University, Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Thomas. He has earned the title “The Boss.” Each officer of the team serves for two years. When Colonel Thomas took command of the Thunderbirds at the Thunderbird Hangar at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, he became the 32nd leader of the “Ambassadors in Blue.” He commands the squadron of 11 officers and more than 120 enlisted Airmen. “We show Americans what the Air Force does for them every day,” he says. “I joined ROTC at Wright State my freshman year.”

Colonel Thomas graduated from Wright State University in December 1991, and entered the Air Force in 1992. He soon distinguished himself as an exceptional airman. He has logged more than 2,700 hours as an Air Force pilot, with more than 240 hours of combat experience. Before being selected to head the Thunderbirds team, Colonel Thomas was director of operations at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

The appearance of “The Boss” on The Colbert Report in June 2009 got much media attention, as Colonel Thomas charmed Steven Colbert while joining in the fun. It was all part of Colbert’s one-week special on the Iraq war. “Steven Colbert was a nice man,” reports Thomas. “The Boss” heads up the team in the skies and when the Ambassadors in Blue meet children from the Make a Wish Foundation, as well as other outreach efforts such as visiting hospitals and schools. “Representing the entire Air Force is a humbling opportunity and a huge responsibility,” he says. “The Boss” is on the road 235 days a year, away from Michele and their children. “But there are many military men and women who are gone from their families for a year at a time,” he points out.

Remembering his Wright State years

When Gregory Thomas was about to graduate from Anderson High School in Cincinnati, the time came to make a decision about college. “My brother went to Wright State, and it seemed like a good choice for me,” Thomas recalls. He began work on the degree he would earn in management information systems. His brother also talked to him about the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). “Before that, I had no intention of going into the military,” admits Thomas. “But when I became medically qualified for a pilot slot and received a scholarship, the decision was easy. I joined ROTC at Wright State my freshman year.”

Thomas lived on campus his freshman year, then off campus for the rest of the time. One of his best memories was meeting the woman who would become his wife. Michele Sipes, a graduate of Centerville (Ohio) High School, was an education major at Wright State. “My roommate was dating Michele’s best friend, and that’s how we met,” he says. The future Thunderbird Commander enjoyed his time at Wright State and talks proudly about the education he received. “The professors were outstanding, and I really got a great foundation at Wright State,” he said.

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In the cockpit

The Thunderbird squad began more than 50 years ago when the Air Force’s air demonstration team was activated at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, flying the F-84G Thunderjet. The name “Thunderbirds” was soon adopted, influenced in part by the strong Native American culture of the southwest. To demonstrate the most advanced air power in the world, Colonel Thomas and his team fly the Lockheed Martin F-16 Fighting Falcon, a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. Crowds roar their applause as the Thunderbirds perform maneuvers in tight formation—loops, extremely close passes, rolls, and very tight turns.

A new maneuver, the brainchild of Colonel Thomas, was added to the performance: the Thunderbirds now perform a loop during take-off. Colonel Thomas himself was the first to try it out. “I had to analyze it at every aspect, including what could go wrong.” he reports. “Safety is always number one.”

Lt. Col. Greg Thomas, Class of 1991, has undoubtedly one of the most exciting jobs in the world: heading up the amazing U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds
Great Expectations

By Jim Hannah

When his wife appeared in the basement of Wright State University’s Paul Laurence Dunbar Library with a change of clothes and a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich for him, David Lawrence had been studying for 36 hours. It was 1995, and Lawrence was taking classes to become certified as a teacher. The class that had Lawrence hunkered down in the library was Children’s Literature.

“IT was the second toughest class I’ve ever taken in my life,” Lawrence recalled. “We had to read what seems like hundreds of books and write these reflections and put them into thematic units. But it was a great class. That was my introduction to Wright State and its rigor in terms of academics.”

Today, Lawrence is principal of Thurgood Marshall High School in Dayton. And he’s on a mission to improve the lives and future of all 657 students and enhance their chances of making their mark on the world.

Lawrence, 43, is doing that with energy, determination, and an inspire-by-example philosophy.

His call sign over the school two-way radio is “01.” He sometimes sends emails to teachers at 1 a.m. and then shows up for work at the school at 5:30 a.m. He rarely misses a varsity basketball game—both boys and girls—and his car is often parked in the school lot on Sunday afternoons because Lawrence is in his office preparing for Monday.

Lawrence acknowledges setting the bar high for both students and teachers.

“I don’t think there’s any other way to operate,” he said. “If you have high expectations, you’re always in this perpetual state of trying to move toward perfection. You never get comfortable.”

Lawrence has helped establish a mentoring program in which scientists and engineers from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base come to the school and mentor students on robotics, rocketry, and other topics. He has set up regular seminars on nutrition and wellness, anger management, emotional distress, and pregnancy prevention. Lawrence also started a program called A Lawyer in Every Classroom in which attorneys and judges come to the school to discuss law and other professions as a career choice, how to establish a good work ethic, and similar topics.

And Lawrence goes that extra mile when it comes to teaching and principaling. He has made nearly 400 home visits in his 15-year career, paying house calls to try to get students back on the right track or to thank parents for their support.

“It builds relationships, breaks down barriers,” said Lawrence. “And it lets a parent know that I have no fear of coming to your turf to explain situations about your child.”

Born and raised in Dayton, Lawrence later returned to Wright State for graduate courses and earned his educational leadership degree.

“I knew I wanted to be a really good teacher, and Wright State helped me do that,” he said. “And they thought I’d be a really good principal, so I appreciate that. If you showed initiative and wanted to be part of the Wright State family and really earn professional development and training and get better, they were always there.”

Lawrence wants his high school graduates to have an impact on the world in a positive way and be part of the political discourse so essential to a healthy democracy. (In the few minutes each day he’s not involved in school, Lawrence reads editorials in The New York Times, Washington Post, and The Daily Telegraph of London to feed his passion for politics and give himself a global perspective.)

“I would like to transform the way education is thought about in urban centers,” Lawrence said. “I would like for education to be seen as a conduit to change who you are as a person, not necessarily to make money.”

Lawrence says his passion for teaching is fueled by his “social conscience.”

“I see this as equivalent to neurosurgery,” he explained. “If you go in to have surgery, you would expect that the surgeon is prepared, that he was serious, that he knew that his life was on the line. I see myself as someone who is trying to put students in a situation to be able to live their lives. Their lives are on the line. If I’m not successful, you will live a very meager existence or you will have no life at all.”
Trapped underground following a violent earthquake, nine strangers from different classes and cultures struggle to survive. In disaster, they learn about each other...and themselves.

No, it's not a story ripped from the headlines of recent happenings in Haiti or Chile, but the plot of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's new psychological thriller, *One Amazing Thing* (Hyperion/Voice 2010). The title comes from the "one amazing thing" each character shares about his or her own life as they cope with their situation.

An award-winning author and poet, Divakaruni teaches creative writing in the nationally ranked Creative Writing program at the University of Houston. She is a master storyteller, drawing from her own experiences with natural disasters.

Trapped in gridlock trying to evacuate Houston in 2005 as Hurricane Rita approached, she saw firsthand how people react to crisis and fear. Through her volunteer work with Hurricane Katrina refugees who flooded into Houston, she discovered intimately how these survivors, who had lost everything, reacted in different ways.

Born in India, Divakaruni came to the United States in 1976 and worked for a year to save money before earning a Master of Arts degree in literature from Wright State University in 1978. "At that time, the Indian degrees were not well known and Wright State helped me get the equivalencies needed to attend," she explained.

"I got a very good education at Wright State and it helped me get into the Ph.D. program at the University of California, Berkeley," Divakaruni added.

She recalled her first American literature class with Dr. Larry Hussman. "That really opened up American literature to me, which I was unfamiliar with," she explained. "Creative writing with Dr. (William) Baker got me interested in contemporary fiction and poetry. This influenced my writing."

"I really remember Dr. Peter Bracher," she said. "He was very helpful and very kind. I would sit in his office and talk with him about what I wanted to do." Bracher recommended Divakaruni apply for a prestigious national Danforth Fellowship, which provided funding for graduate students who wanted to become college teachers. He even had someone in his office type the application when Divakaruni got sick with the flu. She made the deadline and got the fellowship.

But Wright State provided even more: student employment and hands-on experience. As a teaching assistant in literature, she got her first taste of teaching. And as the editor of Nexus (Wright State's literary magazine), Divakaruni edited submissions from all over the country. She was also a tutor and even washed lab instruments to help fund her education.

Divakaruni became a published writer almost by accident. "When I was almost done with my program at Berkeley, my grandfather died and I wanted to write down some of the memories," she explained.

Later, one of her writing teachers at a community college sent her work to an agent, Sandra Dijkstra, and it was accepted for publication. Divakaruni has the same agent today and connects her creative writing students with her agent. Known for cultural themes in her writing, Divakaruni draws upon her experiences as an immigrant woman.

Her first collection of stories, *Arranged Marriage*, won an American Book Award and focuses on women from India caught between two worlds. "I wanted to write stories about immigrant communities—how they're interesting and challenging, how people are transforming."

The author of 16 books, she has also won a Distinguished Author Award from The South Asian Literary Association, among others. Two novels, *The Mistress of Spices* and *Sister of My Heart*, have been made into films.

Divakaruni is involved with several nonprofits that aid people from South Asia: Daya, a Houston-based organization that prevents violence against women; Pratham, a worldwide organization dedicated to improving literacy; and Maitri, a referral organization that also helps survivors of domestic violence in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she used to live.

She currently lives in Houston with her husband Murthy, two sons Anand and Abhay, and Juno, their yellow lab/golden retriever mix dog.

What's next for the gifted writer? Divakaruni is already working on her next novel with the working title *Oleander*. True to her multicultural themes, it is the story of a young woman who grows up in India, believing her father is dead. When she finds out he is alive and living in the United States, she embarks on a journey to find him.

To learn more about Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, visit www.chitradivakaruni.com or her public Facebook page, www.facebook.com/chitradivakaruni, where she enjoys hearing from people all over the world.
For national expert Claudia Cornett, literacy means more than just being able to read

Opening a New World

By Jim Hannah

May 4, 1970. Four Kent State University students lie dying after being shot by Ohio National Guard troops responding to a campus protest over the war in Southeast Asia.

At Wright State, Claudia Cook skipped her education class to help put out a special edition of the campus newspaper. Later, Cook would run into her professor in the elevator.

“Dr. Harbage said I had to decide whether I was going to be a teacher or work on The Guardian,” Claudia recalls. “I didn’t miss any more classes.” She credits Wright State education professor Mary Harbage for stoking her fire for teaching.

“Dr. Harbage had a progressive philosophy, one that took teaching beyond work sheets and drills and saw literacy more broadly than just reading,” Claudia explained. “She was really ahead of her time and was one of the reasons I went on for a master’s degree. She also encouraged me to go on in a doctoral program.”

In the end, Claudia’s passion for education won out over her passion for journalism. Today, she is a nationally renowned expert on literacy.

Cornett married Wright State biology major Charles Cornett in 1969 and goes by her married name. She has written some 20 books and dozens of articles and has conducted hundreds of workshops and given dozens of talks to educators in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Her topics range from using the arts as teaching tools to using humor to increase learning and motivation, but all her work has connected back to what she considers the basics of literacy.

“Literacy to me has a moral dimension to it. The goal is to cause kids to create their own meaning and feel the joy of inquiry. That’s empowering,” explained Cornett. “Literacy is so much more than phonics, which is relatively easy to teach kids. It’s hard to teach comprehension, but that’s the goal of literacy. It’s all about thinking, especially using a problem-solving repertoire to make sense of texts.”

After retiring in 2000 from a 24-year teaching career at Wittenberg University, Cornett moved to Beaufort, South Carolina. But she and her husband tired of the constant threat of hurricanes to their coastal home. So they returned to Charles’s hometown of Lebanon, Ohio, and bought a Victorian-style home, which they rehabbed.

Cornett, 60, is still active in doing staff development for schools throughout the United States and does professional writing, including a new text on literacy, Comprehension First: Inquiry into Big Ideas using Important Questions (2010) and a fourth edition of her book Creating Meaning through Literature and the Arts, which is in press.

The book is a comprehensive treatment of cutting-edge work being done on arts integration. For example, she says, dance and drama are used in science classes to teach the water cycle, and visual art and music are wonderful teaching-learning tools in social studies.

She explains that since the arts are communication tools, they are natural partners with traditional forms of literacy. Furthermore, arts literacy is especially important in the internet age, where much learning takes place through visual images, movement, music, creative word use, and assuming diverse roles and perspectives.

Cornett got her master’s degree in reading at Wright State in 1971 and her doctorate in curriculum at Miami University in 1973.

She began teaching fifth and sixth graders at one Dayton-area school, where she took heat from parents for putting out a special edition of the campus newspaper. Later, Cook would run into her professor in the elevator.

After teaching grades 1–8, Cornett went on to Wittenberg, where she taught undergraduate and graduate classes. She also directed Wittenberg’s Reading Center, in which her college students tutored children from the community.

Cornett also became passionate about the strategic use of humor early in her teaching. She says she found research that suggested that students who read humorous literature read more, comprehended at higher levels, and learn to love to read. She spent two decades teaching fellow educators how to set up classrooms that put students in a good humor and help teachers stave off burnout and apathy.

“Humor has a natural reward because you get a positive emotional response based on chemical changes in the brain,” she said.

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In 1999 she received Wittenberg’s highest teaching honor when she was selected for the Distinguished Teaching Award. While at Wittenberg she also developed and was featured in Sounds Abound, an instructional television series on early literacy that is broadcast on PBS stations during school programming.

Cornett is grateful to Wright State for the inspiration that propelled her to a successful career in education and helped mold her into a national expert on literacy. But she’s still a little wistful about her college newspaper days. She met her future husband at Wright State, and the two were both editors of The Guardian.

“Working on the paper was really the highpoint of being at Wright State,” she recalls. “We had a great time writing the stories, but it was a struggle to get the paper out every two weeks. In fact, I was out delivering stacks of Guardians across campus the morning before our wedding!”

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KATHLEEN DAVIS was on a family vacation in AMSTERDAM when she decided to ask a stranger for directions. It didn’t take the 16-year-old long to realize that she was a prostituted woman. But it wasn’t until Davis was a Wright State undergraduate several years later that it dawned on her: the woman was enslaved. “I thought that she had come to Amsterdam to be a translator, but had ended up in prostitution,” Davis explained. “She said that she was trapped in her situation and wanted out. I didn’t understand why she couldn’t just leave. I didn’t know the signs of human trafficking.”

It was a class on human rights taught by political science professor December Green that sparked Davis’s passion for abolishing human trafficking. That passion carried Davis, who graduated from Wright State in 2004 with a B.A. in international studies and in 2007 with an M.A. in international and comparative politics, from a student fellowship with a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that fights human trafficking. There, she learned that human trafficking happens here in the United States.

After learning about human trafficking as a senior undergraduate, Davis took a fellowship position with the Polaris Project, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that fights human trafficking. There, she learned that human trafficking happens in Ohio. “I started to wonder whether or not this happens here,” she said.

After returning to the state to begin her master’s degree at Wright State, she did extensive research on the issue in Ohio. “I was shocked by what I found out,” she said.

While still a graduate student, Davis produced a 60-page research project for the Polaris Project entitled Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery in Ohio. In it, she outlined several factors, such as proximity to the Canadian border and a prominent network of highways, which make Ohio a hub for human trafficking activity. Davis’s research showed that Ohio is a center for recruiting and transporting trafficking victims, a major destination site. With this information, Davis went to work lobbying policymakers for stronger laws against trafficking.

Changing the World

TAKE ACTION: What You Can Do to Help

Visit www.polarisproject.org to learn more about human trafficking.

Report potential trafficking by calling the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-8888 (toll-free, 24/7, confidential).

Call or write to policymakers urging them to support anti-trafficking legislation.

Donate to the Polaris Project. Funds are used to provide services for human trafficking victims and to support advocacy and awareness programs.

After working for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Davis returned to the Polaris Project as national training coordinator. She currently teaches law enforcement agents to recognize human trafficking and provide appropriate services to the victims. She is focusing on creating a statewide curriculum for officers in the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and working with the U.S. Department of Defense on a mandatory training program for all of its employees.

“Making a difference is the mindset that many people have. Whenever I just don’t feel like working on a project, I think back on that conversation and it motivates me to continue.”

Human Trafficking By The Numbers

OHIO

3,437: Estimated number of foreign-born persons in Ohio who are at risk for labor or sex trafficking

1,078: Estimated number of youth trafficked into the sex industry in the past year

UNITED STATES

42: Number of states with laws against human trafficking (Ohio only has a specific state that can enhance other charges against traffickers.)

14,500-15,500: Number of foreign nationals trafficked into the U.S. every year

WORLD

27 million: Number of people in contemporary slavery worldwide

161: Number of countries identified as affected by human trafficking

32 billion: Total yearly profits generated by the human trafficking industry

1 million: Number of children exploited by the global commercial sex trade, every year

80/50: Percentage of transnational victims who are female and children, respectively

Sources


U.S. Department of Justice, Report to Congress from Attorney General John Ashcroft on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Fiscal Year 2002 and 2004

UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Trafficking in Persons Global Patterns 2006

UNODC, A Global alliance against forced labor: 2005

Assessment of U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2004

Ohio Trafficking in Persons Study Commission, Report on the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio to Attorney General Richard Cordray, 2010

Percentage of transnational victims who are female and children, respectively

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Making a Difference

By Kim Patton

“I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A NURSE. My mom’s a nurse,” said Linda Stump Augustine, ’81. She also knew that she wanted to be trained in a four-year university program, rather than in a hospital. “I always wanted to go to college, and I always thought it was much better to base your knowledge off of scientific rationale versus all practical.”

After graduating from Trotwood-Madison High School, Linda attended The Ohio State University for one quarter before transferring to Wright State’s College of Nursing and Health. “Ohio State was too big for me; it didn’t fit my personality very well.” It was a decision that would change her life and the life of a young medical student named Jim Augustine, ’83.

“I didn’t know I wanted a career in medicine until my brother got involved in a very bad car accident when I was a junior in high school,” Jim explained. “That led to my interest in healthcare and ultimately a career in medicine.”

During his senior year at Ohio State, Jim began looking at medical schools in Ohio. He wanted a school that was community based. Impressed during his interview, he chose Wright State.

As a student, Jim served on the faculty curriculum committee for the Department of Emergency Medicine. Glenn Hamilton, M.D., had just become the department’s new chair. “Dr. Glenn Hamilton was then and still is now an inspiration to emergency physicians, said Jim. Jim and Linda met when Jim came over to the College of Nursing to recruit students for intramural sports. The couple married one week after Linda graduated and while Jim was in his third year of medical school.

Helping to save lives

Linda started working at Miami Valley Hospital on a telemetry floor, which she describes as “a stepped-down ICU.” That would be followed by stints in critical care, coronary care, and intensive care. While working as a Careflight nurse, Linda started the inpatient cardiac rehab program at Miami Valley.

After graduating from medical school, Jim entered the emergency medicine residency program at Wright State. During both medical school and his residency, Jim also worked as a volunteer firefighter for the Kettering Fire Department. This experience further solidified his interest in emergency medicine.

After a year of fellowship in emergency medicine at Miami Valley Hospital, Jim and some other physicians joined forces to provide emergency services to many of the outlying emergency departments in the Dayton area.

Jim served as CEO of this company from 1987 until 2001, when he and Linda moved to Atlanta, Georgia. Jim became vice chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory University, and Linda starting working in the cardiac center at Emory University Hospital. In 2002, Linda joined MedAire, Inc., where she works to this day as a senior medical instructor, teaching flight attendants and pilots how to manage illnesses and injuries in flight. “They’re required every year to do recurrent training on first aid, so they need to know how to use their medical equipment and kits to take care of anybody who would be ill,” she explained. “Our company has a telemedicine base, which is a physician group that answers the phone 24/7. 365 days a year.” If someone gets sick during a flight, a crew member can use the plane’s phone or radio to call a doctor and get help with emergency care. “They’re up in the air by themselves, so we teach them how to take appropriate action if someone is sick in a life-threatening situation,” said Linda. That may include performing CPR, using the plane’s automated external defibrillator (AED), or giving medication.

For Linda, the greatest reward is knowing that someone she trained could one day save a life. “The first time you successfully resuscitate someone with a heart attack—it’s something you’ll never forget in your life. It’s very gratifying to educate people that have no medical knowledge that they too can do things that will save lives.”

After several years at Emory University, Jim joined Emergency Medicine Physicians (EMP), where he has served as director of clinical operations since 2003. Jim travels the country, helping emergency departments improve their operations and develop innovative ways to provide emergency care.

Over the years, Jim has also served as medical director for both the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department and the Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson International Airport. From 2008 to February 2010, he was assistant fire chief and medical director of the Washington, D.C., Fire and EMS Department. Jim also serves as chair of the Hospital Professional and Technical Advisory Committee for The Joint Commission. He is executive editor of the journal ED Management.

As a clinical faculty member in Wright State’s Department of Emergency Medicine, Jim returns to campus at least once or twice a year to give lectures or participate in other activities.

He is particularly excited about the Boonshoft School of Medicine’s latest initiative, the National Center for Medical Readiness at Calamityville. “This is a very good thing for both the school and the country,” said Jim.

The most satisfying aspect of Jim’s work is being able “to help communities better prepare for bad events and disasters. We get to take care of people during a very stressful time in their lives. The reward is to be able to give people the best outcome that you can after they’ve had a bad medical or injury event.”

The Augustines split their time between their current home in Washington, D.C., and Dayton. Jim and Linda’s parents still live in Dayton, as does their son, Josh, one of the couple’s three children. Josh, a 2008 graduate of Wright State, followed in his parents’ footsteps and became a firefighter and paramedic for the Washington Township Fire Department.

Trips to the local firehouse with his dad were commonplace while Josh was growing up. “I would tag along and get to see them all work,” he recalled. “My exposure to the fire department really pushed me in the direction of doing this. Most kids talk about being a fireman, but they really don’t get to see it firsthand.”

They may have envisioned very different careers growing up, but Jim and Linda Augustine’s paths would cross one day at Wright State University while they were both studying for their future jobs in health care.
They can’t be seen by the naked eye, but are used to inspect the space shuttle for cracks, image military planes for corrosion, and detect historic murals that have been plastered over. And they hold promise for uncovering victims from rubble, spotting nervous terrorists, and even detecting skin cancer. They are terahertz light waves, or T-rays. And Wright State University’s decision to hire a pioneering physicist and engineer from the University of California, Santa Barbara, to head up the university’s T-ray team is expected to take the region’s terahertz research to new heights.

Dr. Elliott Brown has been named endowed chair in experimental sensor physics. He began work spring quarter.

Terahertz research and development is expected to expand greatly at Wright State. Brown because of his capability and experience as well as his ability to identify growth areas and attract funding, said Jason Deibel, assistant physics professor and terahertz researcher at Wright State.

“We are getting very close to having broad expertise in terahertz science and technology,” said Deibel. “One of the things we’re trying to do is build up this sort of technique for detection, generation, and application development,” he said. “Having both myself, Dr. Brown, and fellow physics professor Dr. Douglas Pettke all here at Wright State will provide a solid foundation for groundbreaking research and development.”

Brown says he wants to build a center of excellence in sensors that will have applications in national security and counterterrorism as well as law enforcement, medicine, and materials technology.

“I want to create a laboratory which will attract both national and international interest and collaboration. And I want it to act as a center of truthing and innovation for the Department of Defense, including the Tri-Services and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA),” Brown said. “Clearly, the Air Force should be a primary partner, but we cannot forget about the Army, Navy, and DARPA as well. You do that by outstanding quality of research, scientific honesty, and unique capabilities.”

Terahertz radiation is comprised of invisible light waves in the electromagnetic spectrum, higher in frequency than microwave and lower than infrared light. Terahertz waves can penetrate materials such as clothing, paper, cardboard, wood, and plastic, but not metal or water.

Terahertz research grew rapidly in the 1980s as electronics from the microwave-range of the electromagnetic spectrum and lasers from the optical/ infrared-end of the spectrum improved. A key development was ultrastable optoconductive materials that respond to photonic and electronic stimulus at subpicosecond time scales.

Terahertz imaging is currently used to inspect foam insulation on the space shuttle’s external tank, looking for cracks and bubbles. It is used in historic churches to determine whether significant artworks have been plastered over. And it is used to test semiconductors to determine if the quality is high enough to use in a computer chip.

Wright State researchers are working toward radiating terahertz waves through flames similar to the exhaust expelled by jet and rocket engines. Doing a detailed analysis of temperature and other characteristics of the burn could help make the engines and fuel-combustion more efficient and save millions of dollars for taxpayers, Deibel said.

Terahertz waves are also being used by the Air Force to inspect airplanes for rust without having to take them apart for ultrasound testing or building a car wash-sized X-ray scanner.

“Terahertz radiation will go through paint and grease, allowing one to inspect the condition of the surface underneath,” Deibel said.

Many universities either have a concentration of optics researchers or a concentration of electronics researchers. Brown, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, brings an expertise in both areas, Deibel said. “He’s been at a lot of the places that have been instrumental in terahertz technology,” Deibel said.

Brown received his bachelor’s degree in physics from UCLA and graduate degrees in applied physics from the California Institute of Technology. For four years he was with the Hughes Aircraft Co., where he worked on key components in millimeter-wave radiometers and high-speed laser communications systems for the company’s space and communications group.

Brown also was a program manager for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, an arm of the Department of Defense responsible for developing new technology for the military. He oversaw work on microwave integrated circuits for radar and electronic warfare.

In addition, he worked as an assistant program manager at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, a federally funded research and development center whose mission is to apply advanced technology to national security issues. At Lincoln Laboratory he worked on terahertz and infrared technologies, high-speed electronics, and novel electromagnetic concepts such as photonic crystal antennas.

Deibel said the military and security agencies are interested in seeing whether terahertz imaging can be effectively used in detecting concealed weapons and explosives. Lab workers have demonstrated that a gun hidden inside a man’s shirt could clearly be seen when bombarded with terahertz rays.

Petkie has also applied for a patent for using terahertz waves to detect the breathing rate of a person as far as 30 yards away. The heightened or irregular respiration rate of a person could indicate a high level of stress, such as a person about to perform a terrorist act, and might be detectable by such a terahertz device when coupled with other state-of-the-art technologies, Deibel said.

The device could also be used aboard a helicopter looking for survivors of a disaster, detecting a victim that is still alive and in need of immediate medical attention. By contrast, thermal cameras that detect body heat cannot discern the difference between a person who will die in 10 minutes or one who has died 10 minutes ago.

Combining terahertz radar with a thermal camera and acoustic sensor would provide a powerful search-and-rescue tool. The researchers plan to work with Wright State University’s National Center for Medical Readiness Tactical Laboratory at Calamityville, a one-of-a-kind training facility for disaster response, to help develop these applications.

There is also some evidence that terahertz imaging has the potential for detecting skin cancer and skin burns. Wright State terahertz researchers work with those at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as well as the University of Dayton and Miami University. In addition, Wright State is part of the Institute for Development Commercialization of Advanced Sensor Technology (IDCAST), established by a $28 million Ohio Third Frontier grant. IDCAST is led by the University of Dayton and is made up of universities, several segments of the Air Force Research Laboratory, and dozens of private companies that work to commercialize sensors—devices that receive and convert signals for the purpose of detecting chemical or biological agents.

“The way I look at it is to get all the players at the same place,” Deibel said. “You have the basic scientists, the applied scientists, the company people, and the Air Force as one potential end user among others all working there together.”

Brown will be one of 12 endowed chairs in the region—all within an hour’s drive of Wright-Patterson—who will lecture on terahertz technology. All of the chairs are funded by the Ohio Research Scholars program, which is part of the Ohio Third Frontier’s effort to attract senior talent to work on commercially promising research.
By Richard Doty

If Norman Vincent Peale hadn’t written The Power of Positive Thinking, Eric Bigler probably could have. For Bigler, a Wright State graduate and philanthropist, radiates a positive outlook on life and demonstrates what you can achieve with unlimited perseverance.

Along the way he has overcome obstacles that would leave many individuals in a depressed state for the rest of their lives. When Bigler was 15, he readily admits that he had it all. “I had everything going for me in life. I was active in school sports and outdoor activities like riding dirt bikes. I was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing,” said Bigler.

“While my father worked full time at a local company, he also had a 425-acre ‘hobby’ farm raising beef cattle. This allowed me at an early age to learn the meaning of responsibility and hard work. I was interested in law enforcement as a career field and was incredibly independent.”

Then it all changed, in an instant.

On a late July day in 1974, Bigler was swimming with friends in a creek near his rural eastern Ohio residence. His first dive was straight out from the makeshift diving board without incident. For his second dive, in what he calls a “moment of carelessness,” he dove down instead of out. He knew something was wrong the instant he hit his head on the bottom of the creek bed. “I immediately lost all feeling from the neck down. “In the beginning there was always hope that the severe damage his spinal cord. He was paralyzed from the bottom of the creek bed. “I immediately lost all feeling from the neck down. “In the beginning there was always hope that the severe damage his spinal cord. He was paralyzed from the bottom of the creek bed. “I immediately lost all feeling from the neck down. “In the beginning there was always hope that the severe damage his spinal cord. He was paralyzed from the bottom of the creek bed. “I immediately lost all feeling from the neck down. “In the beginning there was always hope that the severe damage his spinal cord. He was paralyzed from the bottom of the creek bed. “I immediately lost all feeling from the neck down. “In the beginning there was always hope that the severe damage his spinal cord. He was paralyzed from the bottom of the creek bed. “I immediately lost all feeling from

His independence had ended. “I truly credit my parents,” he says. “I came from a hard-working family with strong beliefs in taking care of yourself. Just because I had an accident doesn’t mean I should call it quits.” Bigler also credited his religious beliefs. “God has a plan for everyone, and perhaps his plan for me was this accident to change the course of my life.”

After his accident, Bigler had to relearn simple activities such as feeding himself. He dealt with several medical professionals who helped him in adjusting to life in a wheelchair. “I was unsure about a vocation and they got me thinking about human service work, and that evolved into direct human service in management and administrative positions.”

Bigler said that he hadn’t given much thought to college and didn’t know about Wright State until his accident. He realized that attending college in a wheelchair would be a major challenge but possessed such a positive outlook and refusal to give up that he wasn’t about to let these circumstances defeat him.

“When I found out how much Wright State does to accommodate students with disabilities, there was really no other choice for college,” he said. “Wright State was, and still is, the best university in the country for disabled individuals. The support it provides, through things like the tunnel system, proctors, attendant care, and a community with many others in your position to share experiences with, is fantastic.”

Bigler enrolled at Wright State in 1978 and acknowledged that he initially had setbacks in adjusting to college as a disabled student. The dictionary defines perseverance as the ability to persist with a task in the face of obstacles. Bigler has never lacked in this quality, and five years later he received his B.A. degree in liberal arts. He then went on to earn an M.S. degree in business and industrial management.

After receiving his graduate degree, Bigler worked for some companies in the public and private sector before breaking into the Department of Defense (DOD) field. He worked for two smaller DOD contractors before he found a career position with Computer Science Corporation (CSC) in 1996. He has been there ever since, testing software for Air Force contracts.

Jeff Vernooy, director of Wright State’s Office of Disability Services, has known and respected Bigler for more than 25 years. “When you have an accident like Eric’s, the disability can take over. Your body is not working like you want,” he explained. “You need to regain your lifestyle by taking control and moving forward with a sense of empowerment which allows you to do great and wonderful things. Eric views his disability as more of a challenge to be overcome than as a handicap. He possesses a positive attitude, persistence, and a love for life that is reflected in everything he does.”

Bigler does a lot. He remains actively involved with Wright State as an alumnus. He is a member of the university’s Heritage Society and a member of the Wright State University Foundation Board. He established a scholarship at his high school and also established the Eric P. Bigler Endowed Scholarship as part of his plan to give back to Wright State.

Starting the scholarship gives me an opportunity for a legacy and the chance to leave a lasting mark with the university,” he said. Two scholarships have been awarded so far to help students who meet three key criteria: demonstrated community involvement, drive and commitment, and the ability to overcome adversities. “That reflected my situation when I went to college, and I wanted to reward future students who meet these criteria.”

Bigler did not choose to restrict the scholarship to students with disabilities because he believes adversity takes many forms. “Eric has developed a very positive lifestyle, which includes caring for future students,” said Vernooy. “He wants to give future students the same opportunities he had.”

In addition to his full-time position, Bigler is a freelance writer, a trader in stocks and commodities, and active in Fairhaven Church. He also has volunteered at the Dayton Art Institute for the last 16 years. “Eric has the nickname with us of ‘Mr. Membership’ because he does such an excellent job at recruiting new members,” said Laura Byington, director for donor relations at the Dayton Art Institute. “He has donated more than 1,800 hours over the years and recruited thousands of members. He volunteers at all the major exhibitions and yearly events such as Oktoberfest. You can really tell he likes to interact with the public. He is enthusiastic, relates well to visitors, and is really a volunteer star.”

Bigler, not one to promote himself, says he enjoys the volunteer duties as a contrast to his regular job. “In my job at CSC, I work in a secured building and communicate with only co-workers and Air Force representatives. At the Art Institute, I get the opportunity to interact with people who not only live locally, but literally from coast to coast. I really enjoy the interaction.”

Bigler no doubt succeeds at the museum by demonstrating the same skills and character that allowed him to overcome a tragic accident as a teen to become a success in life and an avid supporter of Wright State.
Shelley J. Coldiron, ‘77 B.S., ‘87 M.S.
College of Science and Mathematics

With more than 30 years of experience, Shelley J. Coldiron has a diverse background in instrumentation, analytical chemistry, bioengineering, environmental chemistry, and entrepreneurship—serving in the private, public, and government sectors.

Coldiron pursued a master's degree in analytical chemistry from Wright State while employed at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, and at Environmental Testing and Certification in Raritan, New Jersey. She pursued her Ph.D. in computer and electrical engineering before majoring in biomedical engineering at Iowa State University. Her research led to the development of a patented portable fiber optic photometer.

Coldiron co-founded Advanced Analytical Technologies, Inc., and successfully raised $3 million in private equity to develop food safety testing technologies. She then co-founded Combisap, Inc., which developed and manufactured analytical instrumentation for high throughput screening and separations in drug discovery, combinatorial chemistry, high throughput process chemistry and biochemistry, clinical chemistry, and proteomics. Coldiron generated over $6.5 million in funds for Combisap from government grants, government loans, commercial loans, private loans, and two rounds of private equity.

Coldiron’s current entrepreneurial venture is as co-founder and chief technology officer of Nanopartz, an innovator and producer of gold nanoparticle-based products that are applied to the life sciences in diagnostics, imaging, and therapeutics.

Meet Wright State’s OUTSTANDING Alumni for 2010

Ten
Wright State University graduates were honored in February for professional and civic achievements at the 11th annual College Outstanding Alumni Awards.

Thomas M. Duncan, ’81 B.S.B.
Raj Soin College of Business

Thomas M. Duncan currently serves as chief financial officer of Premier Health Partners, a position he has held since October 2008. In addition, he serves as cmert financial officer of MedAmerica Health Systems.

Duncan joined the organization in 1985 as director of finance for MedAmerica Health Systems. He has since held various positions within the organization, including vice president and CFO of Fidelity Health Care, president and CEO of Fidelity Health Care, vice president and CFO of Samaritan Health Partners, and, most recently, vice president and CFO of Miami Valley Hospital and MedAmerica Health Systems.

As a member of the executive team of Premier Health Partners—a $2.7 billion organization—Duncan serves as a highly respected leader for the second largest employer in the region. As a native of Dayton, he has tremendous pride in his community. Duncan has served on the local boards of Combisap Clinical Laboratories, Fidelity Health Care, Vanguard Imaging Partners, Far Hills Surgery Center, Maria Joseph Center, Premier Health Partners International Insurance Ltd., as well as serving as past chair of the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program.

Duncan is a licensed CPA (inactive). Prior to joining Premier, Duncan served as a senior accountant at Ernst & Whinney in Dayton.

“As dean of the Raj Soin College of Business, I am pleased to see Thomas Duncan receive this prestigious award,” said Berkwood Farmer. “His total professional career has been exemplary. Thomas Duncan is a credit to this college and to the entire health care industry he represents.”

Travis G. Greenwood, ’84 B.A.
College of Liberal Arts

Travis G. Greenwood graduated from Wright State in 1984 with a B.A. in communication. He earned his Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University in 1991.

After graduating from Wright State, Greenwood put his degree to work managing a key—but troubled—relationship between a large jet engine corporation and the U.S. Air Force. By 1992, he had worked for two Fortune 500 companies before starting a family business, The Greentree Group. Greentree provides comprehensive solutions for public and private clients. The company’s yearly revenues are approximately $30 million. As Greentree’s owner and chief executive officer, Greenwood ensures the company’s goals are met without sacrificing its values and ethics. He also develops strategies designed to improve Greentree’s image and relations with its clients, employees, and the public.

Greenwood’s service on numerous boards includes Wright State’s Institute of Defense Studies and Education as well as Public Media Connect, a regional, nonprofit public broadcasting and media corporation with subsidiaries such as Dayton’s Think TV and Cincinnati’s CET Television. Greenwood is also a founding board member of the Clark County Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Housing Corporation in Springfield, Ohio. He serves on the Executive Committee for the Beavercreek Forward Foundation. He also served eight years as an elected council member in the Village of Enon, Ohio, and served as its president.

As a way of giving back to his alma mater, Greenwood is an adjunct instructor, teaching a class that helps Wright State students to better prepare for transition from their college lives to professional careers. Greenwood is also proud to be a lifetime member of Wright State’s Alumni Association.

Debra S. Grieshop, ’05 A.A.B.
Lake Campus

Debra S. Grieshop graduated in 1985 from Wright State’s Lake Campus Office Information Systems program with an associate degree. Grieshop immediately began using her administrative skills in the medical office field. She then furthered her education and obtained a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Defiance College. She was able to use the skills obtained with both degrees to advance into administrative duties.

For the past 15 years, Grieshop has served as director of health records management at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio. In addition, she teaches all of the medical terminology and coding courses at Wright State’s Lake Campus.

Throughout her professional career, Grieshop has pursued certifications and credentials in her chosen field of health information management. Recently, Grieshop’s department at Mercer County Hospital was recognized as one of the nation’s top 450 hospitals for billing accuracy. As manager of the Medical Records Department, Grieshop was instrumental in this accomplishment, as well as implementing many electronic record systems at a time when many felt this was a daunting task that could not succeed.

“It is a pleasure for me to nominate Deb for this award,” said Dr. Roger Fulk, associate professor and department director of Office Information Systems Programs at the Lake Campus. “I found her to be very hard working as a student. As a professional, she demonstrates expertise in her chosen field. As an educator, she motivates her students to succeed in the medical field. In fact, she is a proud employer of many of her medical office students.”

Community SPRING 2010 28

Community SPRING 2010 ALUMNI Issue.indd 28-30 3/5/10 10:34 AM
Cheryl L. Huying, 78 B.S.N., ’84 M.S.  
Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health

Cheryl L. Huying has 30 years of experience as a registered nurse. She holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in nursing from Wright State and a doctorate in administration from the University of Cincinnati. She is certified in advanced nursing administration by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and is a graduate of the Wharton Fellows Program in management for nurse executives and the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Huying joined Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in December 2005 as the senior vice president of patient services. Prior to this position, she was the administrator for patient care services at The Ohio State University Hospital. She has also served as vice president for nursing at Greene Memorial Hospital and at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Huying deeply values the importance of nursing education. She currently holds the title of associate dean at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, and is an adjunct instructor at the Wright State University–Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health, where she teaches a leadership course in the nursing master’s program. She was previously a clinical professor at The Ohio State University College of Nursing. She has also served on numerous nursing school advisory boards.

Huying was honored by the American Organization of Nurse Executives with the 2008 Prism Award for her leadership, support, and innovation regarding gender diversity in the Cincinnati Children’s nursing workforce. She has also been recognized as a “Mover & Shaker” in Nursing Management magazine.

Brad Klontz, ’99 Psy.D.  
School of Professional Psychology

Brad Klontz graduated from Wright State in 1999 with a Psy.D. in clinical psychology. He is the co-founder of Your Mental Wealth. He is a clinical psychologist, addictions specialist, consultant, speaker, peak performance psychologist, and his innovative practice in financial psychology.

Klontz was awarded the 2009 Innovative Practice Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association. He received this honor for his application of psychological interventions to help people with money and wealth issues and his innovative practice in financial psychology for practitioners across the country. He is a former president of the Hawaii Psychological Association and serves as the president of Coastal Clinics, Inc., based in Hawaii, which provides psychological services to children and families through the Hawaii Department of Education and Hawaii Department of Health.

Klontz is also a principal investigator and research associate for Northwest Media, Inc., which creates innovative social learning and educational products for at-risk youth, parent training, and service providers. Leveraging his expertise in working with parents and teens, H&R Block has partnered with Klontz to help teens maintain financial fitness.

In addition to being an accomplished researcher in the psychology of money, he co-authored, with his father, Dr. Ted Klontz, Mind Over Money, Wired for Wealth, The Financial Wisdom of Ebenezer Scrooge, and Facilitating Financial Health. He’s also been featured on 20/20 and Good Morning America, and in USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and hundreds of other national and international media outlets and professional magazines and journals, including his Mind Over Money blog and Psychology Today.

Richard D. Smith, ’84 M.D.  
Boonshoft School of Medicine

Richard D. Smith graduated from Wright State in 1984 with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Boonshoft School of Medicine. He did his pediatric residency and internship at Dayton Children’s Medical Center. After graduating from The Ohio State University with a bachelor’s in chemical engineering, Smith spent a few years as an engineer for Procter & Gamble before starting medical school.

Smith is a founding partner of Pediatric Associates of Dayton. He spent 20 years providing exceptional care for young patients. Now in retirement, he has continued to build on that legacy of service as an active volunteer and leader with several regional organizations. Smith embodies the “two Cs” essential to volunteerism—compassion and commitment. He gives of himself tirelessly to make a difference for children in need and contribute to our community.

Smith serves as a member of the Wright State Alumni Association Board of Directors and as president of the Boonshoft School of Medicine Alumni Association. He has served as an assistant clinical professor and voluntary faculty for the medical school.

Outside of medicine, Smith is chair of the Board of Directors for the Dayton Chapter of A Special Wish Foundation and also serves on the Board of Trustees for Wright Memorial Public Library. He is also on the Business Advisory Committee for Oakwood City School Board and is a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dayton Great Miami Valley.

Smith is also volunteer coordinator and guardian ad litem for Montgomery County’s Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) program.
A L U M N O T E S

Class of 1969
Brian Gary (B.A.) has been inducted into the Florida Boxing Hall of Fame.

Class of 1973
Harry Batten (B.A.) was appointed associate director of strategic communications at Georgia College & State University. Batten leads a team of 10 professionals in website development, media relations, video production, and publication and marketing.

Bruce Moon (B.S.) was awarded the Buckeye Art Therapy Association’s Honorary Life Member Award in recognition of his work in the development of art therapy and in the nation. Moon is chair and graduate program director of Mount Mary College’s art therapy department.

Dan Orr (B.S., 77 M.S.), president of Divers Alert Network, received the 2009 Wyland Foundation ICDN Award for Life-Time Achievement. The Wyland ICDN Award, in conjunction with the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences, recognizes the achievements of those who have made a positive difference for the underwater world. Wyland, the world famous marine artist known for his “Whaling Walls,” founded the award in 2002 to acknowledge individuals who exemplify the adventurous spirit of the ocean and inspire others to do the same. Others who have received this award include Jacques Yves Cousteau, Lloyd Bridges, Dr. Robert Ballard, and Dr. Sylvia Earle.

Class of 1979
Stephen Swayne (B.A.) has been accepted to the PhD. program in organizational communication at Purdue University. He was awarded a Frederick N. Andrews doctoral fellowship. The Andrews Fellowships are for the recruitment of outstanding PhD. track students to graduate programs at Purdue University. Recipients of the Andrews Fellowships must demonstrate superior academic achievement and scholarly abilities. Swayne currently resides in Fairborn, OH. He is also a graduate of The Ohio State University (MBA, 1979) and the University of Pittsburgh (M.A., 32). He plans to enroll at Purdue in fall 2010.

Class of 1980
Maynard (Miko) Buck (B.A.) has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Center for Community Solutions in Cleveland, OH. Buck is partner and chairman of the Labor & Employment Practice Group at Benesch. He focuses his practice in the areas of employment-related litigation, collective bargaining, National Labor Relations Board proceedings, EEO counseling, arbitration, mediation and employment matters. He has handled employment matters in a variety of industries and is listed among Ohio Super Lawyers 2004-09. He is a past president of the American Society of Ohio Lawyers and has been named to the Columbus Bar Association’s Hall of Fame.

Wright State alumni receive Forty Under 40 awards

The Dayton Business Journal recognized seven Wright State graduates at its 14th annual Forty Under 40 awards program. Presented by Wright State University’s Ray Soin College of Business, this program has honored over 500 of the region’s best and brightest young leaders. This year’s class was the most competitive ever with over 170 nominations.

Congratulations to the following Wright State alumni on this prestigious honor:

Class of 1983
David Stacy (MBA) has been named CFO and director of operations for the Dayton Art Institute. He was previously CFO for the Ohio Museum Home in Springfield. Stacy resides in Kat- taring, OH, with his wife, Virginia.

Class of 1987
Andrew Foy (B.A.) is the author of Nine Power: How to Find, Cult and Keep a Job. published by Queen P Publish- ing. Nine Power is a how-to-guide that takes readers through the process of landing a job and knowing when to leave for better opportunities.

Class of 1993
James Poniz (B.B.) is a chief op- erating officer for Guggenheim U.S. and Annuity.

Class of 1998
Nicole Cottrell (B.S.B.) was promoted to a principal at Clark Schaefer. She was one of the largest Ohio-based public account- ing firms. Prior to joining the firm in 2000, Cottrell spent three years with the State of Ohio Auditor’s office, where she was responsible for supervising and performing audits on all types of local govern- ments.

Class of 1999
Christopher Brown (B.S.M.E.) has successfully completed the processes and examinations to become an ASCE Engineer. He has been named a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers in Ohio and the Society of American Mili- tary Engineers. Brown resides in Miami, OH.

Class of 2000
Roger Butler (B.S.M.E.) joined the Dayton office of Barge Waggoner Summers & Cannon as an mechanical engineer. He is responsible for design of HVAC and plumbing facilities, particularly for work on federal projects. Butler is a registered professional engineer in Ohio and a LEED Accredited Professional, a certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. He is a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers. Butler resides in Waynesville, OH.

Class of 2003
Aaron Powell (B.S.M.E.) successfully completed the process and examination to become a LEED® Green Associate. Powell is a mechanical engineer in the Dayton office of Barge Waggoner Summers & Cannon. He is a regis- tered professional engineer in Ohio and a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers. He resides in Centerville, OH.

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Congratulations to the following Wright State alumni on this prestigious honor:

Brian Andzik, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (’98 B.S.)
Sarah Hackenbracht, Greater Dayton Area Hospitals (’03 B.A.)
Christopher Kershner, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce (’00 B.A.)
Todd Pleiman, Battelle & Battelle LLP (’98 B.S.)
Elizabeth Riley, Insignia Signs (’04 B.A.)
Laura Woste, Downtown Dayton Partnership (’01 B.A.)

Class of 1982
Alice Locato (B.S) wrote her book It’s Not Rocket Science: Dawn of Earth Adreno on Raising Stellar Kids, pub- lished by Icau.com. Locato has a mas- ter’s and PhD. in clinical psychology from Kent State University. Locato resides in Dayton, OH, with her two teenage daughters.

Congratulations to the following recipients of Wright State’s 2010 Alumni Achievement Awards.

African American Alumni Society Award of Excellence
E. Marlene Johnson, ’86 B.S.B.
Senior Purchasing Agent
Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority

Athletics Alumni Award of Excellence
Brian Emil Syska, ’00 B.S., ’04 M.D.
Board Certified Emergency Medicine Medical Director
Emergency Services Westerly Regional Medical Center

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award
John Flores, ’76 B.S.Ed., ’78 M.A.
Clinical Psychologist
Private Practice

International Alumni Award of Excellence
Raj Gopal Prasad Kantanen, ’91 M.S.E.
Staff Researcher/Senior Research Manager
Yahoo

Recent Graduate Award
Zachary L. Allen, ’06 B.S.B.
Producer
Trojan Insurance

Social Work Alumni Society Award of Excellence
Elizabeth Cobb Nicholson, ’79 B.A.
Director
CARE House
The Children’s Medical Center of Dayton

Volunteer Service Award
Robert J. Evans, ’94 B.S.H.E.F.
Systems Engineer
Computer Sciences Corporation

Stay Connected
Get the latest news and information from Wright State’s Alumni Association with our new bimonthly e-newsletter. Email alumni@wright.edu to sign up now!
Community-Spring 2010 ALUMNI Issue.indd   34-35

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Bill Edwards
The 1982–83 season was a very good one for Bill Edwards. The Wright State basketball star averaged 25 points a game, set the school record with 45 points against Morehead State, and helped get the Raiders to the NCAA Tournament, where they lost in the first round to a Bobby Knight-coached Indiana team that went 31-4. “It was a great experience for me,” Edwards said of his Wright State days. “I had fun there.”

Edwards went on to play briefly for the Philadelphia 76ers before launching a 12-year career playing professional basketball in Europe.

Today, the 38-year-old Edwards works for the National Football League and National Basketball Association—and he also works with high school and college teams, helping athletes participating in a variety of sports.

Before starting the institute, Brooks spent several years as senior director of player development with the NBA. She also worked with the Dallas Cowboys for seven years. She started her sports management career as a private consultant and clinician before joining the Cowboys in 1997.

James Terpenning
In competing at four Paralympics over 12 years, James Terpenning went from the swimming pool to the volleyball court. The 41-year-old Beaver creek man won a gold medal in the relay and a bronze medal in the 100-meter backstroke in the 1998 Paralympics and swim in the 1992 Paralympics as well. Then he switched to sitting volleyball for the Paralympics in 1996 and 2000. “It was pretty awesome,” Terpenning recalled of his medal-winning experience. “You got to represent the United States, receiving the medals—especially the gold—and listening to the national anthem being played. You can’t ask for anything more than that.”

While at Wright State, Terpenning played on the basketball club team and worked for Disability Services and Campus Recreation. He graduated in 1998 with a major in human resource management.

Today, Terpenning works in computer support for the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The father of four also goes into the schools and does wheelchair exhibitions and presentations. He also tries to inspire people with disabilities. “Boeing disabled doesn’t mean you are actually disabled,” he said. “Even with a disability, you are able to do whatever you want to do.”

In August 2009, Terpenning and his family were surprised with a new 3.200-square-foot disability-accessible home thanks to ABC’s Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. An estimated 8,000 supporters turned out for the unveiling.

Joe Smith
Joe Smith, who attended Wright State University from 2002 to 2006, is in his fourth season in Major League baseball, pitching for the Cleveland Indians. Smith, 25, of Cincinnati, was a walk-on at Wright State and credits his college coaches with convincing him to adopt a sidearm motion.

Smith was drafted by the New York Mets in 2007 and was the first in his draft class to make the major leagues in 2008. He said it is a challenge to keep the hitters guessing.

“These guys are good up here,” Smith said. “They study a lot, and they really watch people pitch.”

Smith is hoping to stay healthy this season. Last year, he suffered finger, shoulder, and knee injuries.

Jenny Horn-Claypool
Jenny Horn-Claypool scored 1,307 points in her four-year basketball career at Wright State University, the second most by any player on the women’s teams.

Today, Horn-Claypool is scoring points with the 200 students who attend the charter schools she oversees in suburban Dayton. The 45-year-old Milford woman is superintendent of Miami Valley Academies.

“I get excited when the light bulb goes on for the high school students and they know what they’re going to do after graduation and they have goals,” she said. “And we’re helping them.”

Horn-Claypool said basketball taught her patience, perseverance, and teamwork.

Her biggest thrill at Wright State occurred in 1985 when she was named the university’s Female Athlete of the Year.

Horn-Claypool went on to Xavier University, where she earned her master’s degree. She is currently working on her doctorate in educational leadership.

Horn-Claypool is a Wright State Hall of Fame athlete. In 2007, she was named to the Girls Basketball Silver Anniversary Team by the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

Horn-Claypool and her husband have two children.

Alison Bales
Alison Bales is perhaps the most heralded basketball player to come out of the Dayton region. She led Beaver creek High School to two state titles and was a Parade high school All-American before starring at Duke and leading them to the NCAA title game. She has gone on to play with American professional teams in Indianapolis, Atlanta, and Phoenix, plus overseas in Russia and Turkey, and is training for another shot in the WNBA when training camps open this spring.

But for now she is taking pre-med classes in organic chemistry and biology at Wright State in pursuit of a career goal in the medical field. The 24-year-old, whose mother is a surgeon and sister is an EMT, wants to be a doctor when her basketball career is over. She laid the groundwork for this at Duke, with a major in biological anthropology and anatomy and an internship at a brain tumor center. While back in Dayton she has gone on rounds at Miami Valley Hospital with her mom, who, ironically, also regularly leads Wright State medical school students on such rounds.

By Richard Doty and Jim Hannah

Many Wright State students and graduates are remembered for their athletic feats. Some moved on and achieved success either in sports or other arenas.

Bill Edwards
For more than 20 years, Yolanda Brooks has helped professional athletes transition their athletic success to success in everyday life. Brooks, a 1989 graduate of the School of Professional Psychology, is the founder and principal of Dallas-based Sports Life Transitions Institute, a clearinghouse of resources providing services, information, and support to help athletes and their families sustain well-balanced lifestyles and support to help athletes and their families sustain well-balanced lifestyles while obtaining optimal success both in sport and in life. Her primary clients are football and basketball teams—players in the National Football League and National Basketball Association—and she also works with high school and college teams, helping athletes participating in a variety of sports.

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By Richard Doty and Jim Hannah

Here’s an update on a few notable athletes with Wright State ties.
Wright State University has hired Billy Donlon as its eighth head men’s basketball coach. Donlon, an associate head coach at Wright State for four years, succeeds Brad Brownell, who accepted a similar position at Clemson.

Donlon, a native of Northbrook, Illinois, outside Chicago, spent the last four years on Brownell’s staff. Before coming to Wright State in the spring of 2006, he was an assistant for Brownell at the University of North Carolina—Wilkinson (UNCW) for four seasons. During his eight years with Brownell, Donlon helped guide teams to three NCAA Tournaments, including the Wright State Raiders in 2007. During the last four years, the Raiders have won at least 20 games each season.

“Coach Donlon brings not only an ability to continue what has been laid in place but also a wealth of basketball knowledge and expertise to this position,” said Director of Athletics Bob Grant. “We are confident that Billy will continue building our program and take Raider basketball to another level of success.”

Donlon, a former UNCW star, played an integral role in the successes at Wilmington and Wright State in the spring of 2006, he was part of every area, especially during the past four seasons as the Raiders posted an 84-45 overall record. Wright State’s league record of 49-21 set a new four-year mark for Raider teams.

Over this period, Donlon helped develop four all-league players, four named to the all-defensive team, two selected to the newcomer team, and Horizon League Player of the Year DaShaun Wood in 2007.

Donlon received one of the Colonial Athletic Association’s most prestigious honors in his senior year at UNCW when he was selected as the recipient of the Dean Ellers Award for Leadership, presented annually to the player who embodies the highest standards of leadership, integrity, and sportsmanship through academic and athletic achievements.

Donlon began his coaching career as an assistant at American in 1999–2000 and then moved on to St. Peter’s for one season in 2000–2001. In May 2001, Donlon returned to the court as the starting point guard for the Irish National Team. He also played professionally in Bourg en Bresse in France, and with the Awtos Giessen team in Giessen, Germany.

“Billy has been around the game his entire life. He was always a coach on the floor as a player, which is why I’m not surprised he has turned into an outstanding coach,” said Chris Collins, associate head coach at Duke University. “His passion for the game is second to none. He really relates well to the players and has a great knowledge of the game. Billy has an amazing future ahead of him. Wright State is lucky to have him as their head coach.”

“I’ve known Billy since he was a young kid during my time at Providence College,” said Billy Donovan, head coach at the University of Florida. “Billy comes from a great, great family and has been around basketball his entire life. He’s a terrific person, a terrific coach, and I know he will do an outstanding job at Wright State.”

During his time in the coaching ranks, Donlon has worked in all areas of coaching, including floor coaching, scouting, planning practice, recruiting, scheduling, and public relations. The exuberant 33-year-old has been a major part of every area, especially during the past four seasons as the Raiders posted an 84-45 overall record. Wright State’s league record of 49-21 set a new four-year mark for Raider teams.

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Bradbury was an integral part in signing the nation’s top-ranked player at Xavier in 2006–2007. While at Cincinnati, he helped sign three Top 25 classes. In each of his last 10 seasons as an assistant coach, his teams qualified for postseason play.

In all, 12 of the 17 teams he has been involved with have made postseason appearances, and nearly every team has posted a .500 record or better. “I would like to thank university President Dr. (David) Hopkins, Vice President Dr. (Dari) Abrahamowicz, and Director of Athletics Bob Grant for giving me this opportunity to lead the women’s basketball program at Wright State,” Bradbury said. “I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work immediately, and I will rely on the supportive staff, die-hard fans, and the players to help make this program as successful as possible. I would also like to thank everyone at Morehead State, especially Director of Athletics Brian Hutchinson, for giving me my first opportunity as head coach. I can’t wait to hit the ground running.”

“Michael has been a key recruiter in this region and helped secure several Top 25 recruiting classes to Xavier and Cincinnati, not to mention a highly ranked class in his first year at Morehead State.”

—Director of Athletics Bob Grant

Bradbury spent five seasons at Xavier, and all five resulted in postseason appearances, including two NCAA Tournament berths. In his first season at Xavier, in 2002–2003, the Musketeers went 20-10 overall and advanced to the NCAA Tournament first round after posting a 12-19 record in the season before. In 2006–2007, Bradbury helped lead Xavier to a 26-8 record and another NCAA Tournament berth. In between, his teams made three consecutive Women’s National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) appearances, including a quarterfinal game in 2004–2005. In his five seasons, Xavier was 106-50 (.679 winning percentage).
Raiders Sign Deal with Nike

The Wright State University athletic department and Nike/Impact Sports have entered into a three-year agreement that makes Nike the official provider of Raider uniforms, equipment, and apparel.

This opportunity to partner with Nike and Impact Sports—the recognized leaders in sports apparel and gear—speaks to the success that our programs have achieved," said Bob Grant, Wright State University director of athletics. "We are always looking to provide our student-athletes with the best chances to compete successfully.

Baseball tabbed as preseason favorite by Horizon League coaches

Wright State’s baseball team is the Horizon League’s 2010 preseason favorite. The 2009 Horizon League Tournament champions received all six possible first-place votes from the voting coaches in the league.

Wright State claimed the six possible first-place votes to account for 36 points, while UC received second with 31 points and the other first-place vote. Milwaukee was third with 21 points, followed by Valparaiso (22 points) and Youngstown State (15 points). Cleveland State was picked sixth with 12 points and Butler rounds out the poll with seven points.

The preseason poll is made up of votes from the seven league coaches and each rank the six teams, excluding their own, in order of finish.

The Raiders bring back four of their five All-Horizon League performers from last season, led by the league’s Relief Pitcher of the Year, Michael Schum, and Quentin Cate, the 2009 Newcomer of the Year. Second Team performer R.J. Gundolf, along with All-League First Team outfilder and Team USA member Casey McGrew also return for the Green and Gold.

The 2010 Raiders will play a tough schedule before starting league play, but 24 returning players give Wright State a wealth of experience to draw from during their pre-league schedule.

Light starting position players return in 2010, along with four starting pitchers, led by Alex Kaminsky, Michael Woytek, and Jon Durket, who returns from an injury-plagued year in 2009.

Cate and McGrew will lead the Raiders offense with each player driving in 50+ RBIs last season. Six players that hit over .300 last year are back for another tour and nearly 80 percent of their runs scored return from 2009.

Ryan Asher, Cate, Aaron Fields, Garrett Gray, Gundolf, Jake Hibberd, McGrew, Tristan Moore, and Gerald Ogrinc all have starting experience.

2010 Horizon League Baseball Preseason Coaches Poll

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Track finishes fourth at Horizon League Indoor Championships

Wright State’s track team finished fourth at the Horizon League Indoor Championships held at the Michigan Indoor Track Building in Ann Arbor. It was the top finish for Wright State since starting the program in 2001.

Leading the way for the Raiders was sophomore Cassandra Lloyd, who won a league title in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.46, setting new league and school records along the way.

Wright State University sports, go to www.wsuraiders.com

Diggins honored twice by Horizon League

Wright State men’s basketball player Vaughn Diggins was named to the Horizon League’s Second Team as well as to the five-member All-Defensive Team.

The Pendleton, Indiana, native was selected to the All-Newcomer Team in 2007 and First Team in 2008, missing the 2009 campaign due to an injury.

“I am happy Vaughn received the recognition he deserves from the coaches and media, who follow the Horizon League, for his hard work and all-around play,” said former Wright State head coach Brad Brownell. “Not only did he lead us in scoring, but he was always guarding the opponent’s best perimeter player. He has shown excellence on both ends of the court throughout his entire career.”
Softball tabbed third in Horizon League Preseason Coaches Poll

Wright State’s softball team has been picked third in the Horizon League’s Preseason Coaches Poll. The Green and Gold will return all nine of their position starters and their top pitcher from a season ago, as they head into their first year under head coach Linda Garza. The Raiders were tabbed third in the preseason coaches poll with 46 points and one first place vote. Wright State placed third behind preseason favorite Cleveland State with seven first place votes and 63 total points and UIC, who received one first place vote and 57 points. Butler and Loyola tied for fourth place with 38 points apiece. Valparaiso (37 points), Green Bay (22 points), Youngstown State (15 points), and Detroit (8 points) round out the preseason poll.

“We return a wealth of talent and experience this season and our goal is to compete for the Horizon League championship,” said Garza. “I know the Horizon League is a competitive league and we need to be at our best during the league schedule to make this happen. I am excited to get things started and am encouraged by what I have seen in practice so far.”

Wright State will return 14 players from the 2009 squad and add a quartet of newcomers to the mix as they look to return to the NCAA Tournament. Sharon Palma will lead the pitching staff with her 37 career wins, ranking third on the career wins list. Palma also ranks among the school leaders in strikeouts, earned run average, shutouts, and innings pitched.

The offense returns nearly 90 percent of the production from a season ago, including top hitter Louie Haney, who batted .394 last season, and four players who produced 30+ RBIs last season. Molle Berry, Briana Birl, Kristen Bradshaw, Jamie Perkins, and Justine Shilt all batted over .300 last season with at least 40 starts for each.

T.I. Collins, Muñoz, freshman Adam Carnell, and Botha teamed to place second in the 400 freestyle relay (3:00.39). On the women’s side, first-place finishers were sophomore Molley Pipkorn in the 100 freestyle (50.86) and 200 freestyle (1:59.92), and 400 individual medley (4:21.97). Second-place finishers included freshman Justyna Hampel in the 1:55.10 freestyle (1:55.10).

Illinois points round out the preseason poll.

Women finish third, men fourth at Horizon League Swimming Championships

The team of junior Kelli Reynolds, sophomore Ali Hohman, junior Erin Stevning, and Pipkorn won the 400 freestyle relay (3:25.93), while Pipkorn, sophomore Rasa Zilinskiene, Reynolds, and Stevning combined to win the 200 freestyle relay (1:34.45). Pipkorn, senior Ana Rubin, Stevning, and Wiecezark won the 800 freestyle relay (7:29.53).

Following the meet, Pipkorn was selected as the Horizon League Co-Athlete of the Year with Milwaukee’s Danielle Wengert.

The team of freshman Pawel Grebila, junior Jacques Human, senior Danny Muñoz, and Botha won the 200 backstroke (1:49.51). Second-place finishers included sophomore Hermanus Botha in both the 100 freestyle (44.62) and 200 backstroke (1:59.92), and 400 individual medley (4:21.97). Second-place finishers included freshman Justyna Hampel in the 1:55.10 freestyle (1:55.10).
Governor Ted Strickland was among the guests at the 11th annual ARTSGALA. The program, which showcases student excellence in theatre, dance, motion pictures, music, and visual arts, has raised more than $1 million in student scholarships.