Celebrating the Creative Arts
Welcome to this issue of Community Magazine.

The beginning of a new year is always an exciting time, albeit sometimes challenging. All of us have been affected by the recent economic downturn, and state universities are no exception.

Last December, Governor Ted Strickland called the presidents of Ohio’s colleges and universities together to discuss the budget situation. The Governor reiterated his support for higher education and spoke of everything he was trying to do to continue to invest in Ohio’s universities. He and Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut believe higher education is an engine to drive prosperity throughout the state and that protecting our funding is essential to preserving access to higher education and the affordability of higher education for as many citizens as possible.

That said, our future funding is tied to tax collections, state expenditures, and any additional federal support from President Obama’s administration. I am working closely with Provost Steven Angle, the vice presidents, and the deans to find ways to support our high-quality university environment regardless of our level of state support.

Your support as our alumni and friends continues to be invaluable and is needed now more than ever. You help us provide a quality, affordable education for people from throughout the Dayton region, across the state of Ohio, around the nation and the world.

One of the most exciting aspects of higher education is that we can leverage what is happening on college campuses to create economic prosperity throughout Ohio. The new economy of this state, which we need to create, is going to be based upon ideas and creativity. This puts universities and colleges at the forefront for turning around the state’s economy.

You will read about one of the newest economic initiatives in this issue of Community. The Choose Ohio First scholarship program was created for students interested in pursuing careers in the STEMM fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. These scholarships will prepare students for employment in the STEMM fields and keep them in the state of Ohio, particularly in the Dayton region, where STEMM jobs will be plentiful.

Investing in people is crucial for the future success of not only Wright State, but all of Ohio’s colleges and universities. All of us need to work together to be the agents of economic change and to build the talent and research pipelines that are so critical to the state’s economic development.

While the arts are always a source of comfort and joy, they provide a much-needed refuge in times of economic uncertainty. I know you will be inspired when you read our cover story about the world-class creative arts programs at Wright State and the outstanding achievements of our current students and alumni.

I wish each of you the very best in 2009. May this year bring you good health, happiness, and prosperity.
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1) Wright State University took top honors in the ONE Campaign’s picture of the week competition. WSU currently leads 1,100 campuses in the national ONE Campus Challenge to fight poverty. This photo was taken during the annual “Freshmen Plunge,” a service activity that kicks off the year for all incoming students.

2) Entertainer John Legend visited Wright State on behalf of the Get Out the Vote campaign.

3) Comedian Jim Gaffigan’s Hot Pockets® routine about freezer burn and microwave hot lava reached a new level of hilarity when six Wright State students competed to be the first to chow down four Hot Pockets® stuffed sandwiches. The winners, one male and one female, each won $100 cash, the opportunity to meet Gaffigan, and two tickets to his show at the Ervin J. Nutter Center.

4) WSU students celebrate during Homecoming weekend.
Wheatly inducted into Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame

MICHELE WHEATLY, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Wright State University, was inducted into the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame on September 18 during an evening ceremony in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus.

Wheatly was among 13 Ohio women who joined the Hall of Fame, which has 365 members and celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2008.

The Ohioana Library Association bestows the honor each year on Ohio women who emerge as leaders in their fields, often against great odds, with courage, determination, and compassion, and who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to excellence, achievement, and service to others.

“Wheatly is active in recruiting and ensuring the success of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. Since moving to Ohio in 1994, she has been using her expertise to further the involvement of women in science and mathematics in Ohio,” the Ohioana Library Association said.

Wheatly earned her Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. from Birmingham University in the United Kingdom and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Calgary. She was named one of Dayton’s Ten Top Women in 2007.

In 1988 she was recipient of the Society for Experimental Biology Presidential Medal. At Wright State she has received the Quest for Community Award (2004), Outstanding Faculty Member Award (2000), and the Women’s Advancement Award in Leadership (1997).

The Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame program is administered by the Ohioana Library Association in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Governor’s Office for Women’s Initiatives and Outreach.

Wright State names new Vice President for Advancement

BRYAN K. ROWLAND, PH.D., has been named Wright State University’s vice president for advancement and president of the Wright State University Foundation.

Rowland was most recently The University of Arizona Foundation vice president for development—Arizona Health Sciences in Tucson, where he managed a development program that raised more than $35 million annually for four colleges and five medical research centers, including the Sarver Heart Center and Arizona Cancer Center.

His six years at Arizona included serving as senior director of development and alumni relations for The University of Arizona’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which raised more than $40 million during the last three years of The University of Arizona’s $1.2 billion comprehensive capital campaign.

“Dr. Rowland brings extensive experience to Wright State,” said Wright State University Provost Steven R. Angle. “His proven track record in collaborating across an institution, combined with his skills in engaging the community, make him an outstanding fit for Wright State and for moving us toward our next campaign.”

“Bryan was one of the most trusted and respected fundraisers on our campus, both by his colleagues and our deans,” said James H. Moore, Jr., president of The University of Arizona Foundation. “Bryan will always be an adopted Wildcat, but we wish him all the best in this unique opportunity to lead Wright State’s advancement program.”

“What made me want to come here was Wright State’s 40-year history and what I think the next 40 years can be. I am very excited about the quality of the program, the vision of President Hopkins, and the opportunity to be a member of the Dayton community.”

Prior to working at The University of Arizona, Rowland spent nine years at Virginia Tech. He holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Tech; a master’s degree in speech communication from the University of Illinois.

As Wright State’s vice president for advancement and president of the Foundation, Rowland serves as the head of the Division of Advancement, overseeing the advancement function on the Dayton campus as well as the Lake Campus in Celina in the areas of development, alumni relations, and advancement services.

Working closely with the president, Board of Trustees, and the Foundation, Rowland executes fundraising programs in annual giving, major gifts, deferred gifts, and campaign management. The Foundation has an endowment of nearly $100 million and raises more than $14 million a year.

Rowland, who reports to Provost Angle and President David R. Hopkins, started his new position on October 1, 2008, after moving to the Dayton area with his wife, Stephanie, and 10-year-old son Jacob.

“Higher education has opened doors and changed my life. It has rewarded our family in ways I could never describe,” said Rowland. “I am honored and privileged to be given a chance to serve.”
Wright State first university in nation to create dog park for service dogs

**Already known nationally** for its programs and services for students with disabilities, Wright State University has now taken its commitment to accessibility one step further by becoming the first university in the nation to create a dog park for service dogs on campus. The Wingerd Service Dog Park was dedicated on October 4, 2008, and is located adjacent to Parking Lot 6.

Now six-year-old Marcie, a Lab-Golden Retriever mix, and Dylan, a two-year-old Golden Retriever, will have their own special place to unwind after a full day of work assisting their human companion.

“Marcie takes her job very seriously. She is always working and it’s important for her to have a chance to relax her mind and expel her energy,” said 24-year-old Amanda Fox, who has depended on Marcie for four of the nearly 10 years she has been in a wheelchair. “Marcie helps me with everything from turning on lights and expel her energy,” said 24-year-old Amanda Fox, who has depended on Marcie for four of the nearly 10 years she has been in a wheelchair. “Marcie helps me with everything from turning on lights and opening doors to retrieving laundry from the back of the dryer and getting things out of the refrigerator. We travel an average of two miles a day around campus and a lot of the time Marcie is pulling me.”

Fox, a teacher education major, lives in an apartment near campus and has not had a safe green area to exercise Marcie, until now.

“Wright State wanted to provide an optimal place for students, faculty, and staff with disabilities to better care for their service dogs,” said Jeff Vernooy, director of the university’s Office of Disability Services. “Being able to exercise, socialize with other dogs, and relax is crucial to the efficiency and performance of these important animals. Service dogs not only provide a specific service to their handlers, but also greatly enhance their lives with a new sense of freedom and independence. We’re delighted that Wright State can offer the same to these trusted canine companions.”

The one-acre site for the park was chosen for its central location, shade trees, and proximity to accessible pedestrian routes. The park includes benches, “pooper scooper” stations, water for the dogs, shade for both the animals and their owners, and accessible walkways throughout the park with wheelchair access.

Nineteen-year-old Samatha Laux has learned over the past six months how her dog, Dylan, can help her with the challenges associated with being deaf, blind, and mobile only by wheelchair.

“Besides picking up things and opening doors and drawers, he lets me know when someone is at the door and gets me my phone when I need it,” she said. “Because I am legally blind it is difficult for me to exercise Dylan off leash. He is a young, energetic dog and needs playtime.”

Laux’s mother, Gail, connected Wright State with the Wallis Foundation in California, which helped make the park a reality by donating the lead gift. Other donors include the Kenneth Scott Charitable Trust of Ohio, a KeyBank Trust, and the Laura J. Niles Foundation of New England.

Of the nearly 3,000 students who live on Wright State’s Dayton campus, almost 200 have disabilities. The university has the highest number of students with multiple or “severe” disabilities of any school in the state of Ohio. The Office of Disability Services serves approximately 550 students each quarter. This is 3 percent of WSU’s total enrollment. A significant number of these students have both mobility and visual impairments and assistance animals are an ideal accommodation for this population. Twelve to 15 service dogs are typically living on campus during any given quarter.

**It’s All Happening at WSU!**  
ON THE WEB [www.wright.edu/calendar](http://www.wright.edu/calendar)
Each year, faculty, staff, and units receive awards for their dedication to Wright State and their passion for excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, human relations, leadership, and service. The 2008 recipients of the President’s Awards for Excellence and the recipients of Faculty Awards exhibited exemplary performance and demonstrated their commitment to the university’s mission of transforming the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

**Faculty Awards for Excellence**

- Kuldip Rattan
  Professor, electrical engineering
  Frederick A. White Distinguished Professor of Professional Service

- Gary Pacernick
  Professor, English language and literatures
  Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching

- Michael Leffak
  Professor, biochemistry
  Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research

- John O. Stireman III
  Assistant professor, biological sciences
  Early Career Achievement

- Kathy Keister
  Assistant professor, nursing and health
  Early Career Achievement

- Dane Daniel
  Assistant professor, history, Lake Campus
  Early Career Achievement

- Patricia Schiml-Webb
  Instructor, psychology
  Outstanding Instructor

- Judith Brewer
  Lecturer in education, Lake Campus
  Outstanding Lecturer

- Joseph Petrick
  Professor, management
  Trustees’ Award for Faculty Excellence

- Robert Fyffe
  Associate dean for research affairs and professor of neuroscience, cell biology, and physiology
  University Professor

**Staff Awards for Excellence**

- Vicky Torch (Classified)
  Office of the Bursar
  Excellence in Human Relations

- Bruce Stiver (Unclassified)
  Center for Teaching and Learning
  Excellence in Human Relations

- Curt Pederson (Unclassified)
  Psychology
  Excellence in Service

- Carla Lachecki (Unclassified)
  Center for Healthy Communities
  Excellence in Leadership
### Angela Davis, Ph.D.  
**February 20, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**  
Angela Davis has been deeply involved in the quest for social justice through decades of activism and scholarship. Now professor of history of consciousness and feminist studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Davis works to build communities of eight books, including *Abolition Democracy*, *American history. Obsolete?*, she is currently completing a book on prisons and the University Honors Program’s 2009 Honors Institute. Davis has been named *Time* magazine’s “Woman of the Year” (1987), *Ms.*’s “Woman of the Year” (1992), and named Ms. magazine’s “Woman of the Year” (1997).

### Nicholas Kristof  
**January 26, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**  
Nicholas Kristof, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and columnist for the New York Times, was one of the first to call attention to the genocide in Darfur, visiting that region nine times. He was also an early opponent of the Iraq War and is well known as an advocate of women’s rights in the developing world. Kristof also an early opponent of the Iraq War and is well known as an advocate of women’s rights in the developing world.

### Ann Bancroft  
**February 23, 2009, 7 p.m.**  
Ann Bancroft is one of the world’s preeminent polar explorers and an internationally recognized leader dedicated to inspiring women and girls to follow their dreams. She has been named among Glamour magazine’s “Women of the Year” (2001), named Ms. magazine’s “Woman of the Year” (1997), featured in the book *Remarkable Women of the Twentieth Century* (1998: Inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame (1995), and named Ms. magazine’s “Woman of the Year” (1992).

### Stephen Dubner  
**April 6, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**  
Award-winning author, journalist, and TV personality Stephen Dubner is the co-author of the international bestseller *Freakonomics* and the international bestseller *Superfreakonomics*. He has written two previous best-selling books, *Choosing My Religion* and *Confessions of a Heretic*. His columns for *The New York Times*, *Time*, and *The New Yorker* and have also written for *The New York Times*, *Time*, and *The New Yorker*.

### Alison Bechdel  
**May 11, 2009, 7 p.m.**  
Alison Bechdel is the author of the critically acclaimed comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*. Since drawing her comic strip 25 years ago for New York’s *Womanews*, Bechdel has seen her syndicated comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*. Bechdel has been named one of the most controversial topics of the day. She has written two previous best-selling books, *Choosing My Religion* and *Confessions of a Heretic*. His columns for *The New York Times*, *Time*, and *The New Yorker*.

### Reza Aslan  
**April 15, 2009, 7 p.m.**  
The first young Muslim intellectual to come on the scene for more than 25 years, Aslan brings a new, passionate, and much-needed perspective to the national scene in years. Reza Aslan brings a new, passionate, and much-needed perspective to the national scene in years.

### Danny Glover  
**January 27, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**  
Actor, producer, and humanitarian Danny Glover has been a commanding presence on screen, stage, and television for more than 30 years at the University of Southern California’s Center on Public Diplomacy and Middle East Affairs for CS News. In his internationally acclaimed book *No God But God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*, Aslan explores the interplay between faith and politics in the Muslim world.
Boonshoft School of Medicine holds grand opening for new facility

WSU’s medical students are now learning in a specialized, state-of-the-art facility that rivals the best in the nation.

At a gala grand opening and dedication ceremony on September 12, 2008, medical school dean Howard Part and university president David Hopkins invited medical school faculty, staff, students, and friends to experience the new Medical Education Center in White Hall.

The new facility is the result of a three-year project to renovate the former Frederick A. White Health Center for Ambulatory Care and to expand the building with an 18,000-square-foot addition. In total, the facility now includes more than 84,000 square feet of lecture halls, classrooms, laboratories, offices, study spaces, computer labs, and common areas, all devoted to the specialized training of tomorrow’s finest medical professionals.

“The new facility serves as a dedicated home for the medical school in the heart of campus,” said Part. “All of the resources students need during the first two years of their education are now concentrated in one convenient location.”

Lake Campus forms alumni network

The Wright State University Lake Campus Alumni Network (LCAN) has been created for graduates and former students of the Lake Campus, Dayton Campus, and Western Ohio Educational Foundation.

According to Susan Smith, executive director, Office of Alumni Relations, approximately 5,000 alumni live in the five-county area served by Lake Campus, including Auglaize, Mercer, Darke, Van Wert, and Shelby counties.

“We are anxious to work with LCAN to provide alumni who live in the Lake Campus area with opportunities to network, social and cultural events, and ways to support Wright State and its Lake Campus through volunteer activities in their own community,” said Smith.

“The newly chartered Lake Campus Alumni Network will bring together both past and current Lake Campus students who will work as a team for the betterment of our Lake Campus: programming, curriculum, activities, and facilities,” said James Sayer, Ph.D., dean of Lake Campus. “Graduates will find a cadre of alumni who will aid in their transition to the world of work.”

The following alumni have been elected officers of LCAN:

Kip Wright, President
A.A. ’90, Lake Campus
B.S. ’91, Lake Campus

Mary Pat Zitter, Vice President
B.A. ’80, Dayton Campus

Mary Hart, Secretary
B.S.Ed. ’02, Dayton Campus

Luke Van Tilburg, Treasurer
A.A.B. ’00, Lake Campus
B.S. ’03, Dayton Campus
M.B.A. ’05, Dayton Campus

“We’re excited about getting started and moving on,” said Kip Wright, president of LCAN. “With the current expansion on Lake Campus, the timing couldn’t be better.”

Wright State ranked among Best National Universities, Best in the Midwest

Wright State University has seen its regional reputation reach a national level with two recent college rankings.

Wright State is among the 262 Best National Universities listed in the “America’s Best Colleges 2009” rankings by U.S. News and World Report, and was also designated a “Best in the Midwest” college in The Princeton Review’s 2009 college rankings.

This is the second year Wright State was awarded the Best in the Midwest designation in The Princeton Review’s special annual issue “Best Colleges: Region by Region.” The special issue focuses on 630 of the best colleges in four regions: the Northeast, West, Southeast, and Midwest. Academics, quality of life, and extracurricular activities were among the categories included in a survey given to students and their parents.
When Brandon Kelly was growing up, he would watch Michael and Janet Jackson videos on MTV, record them, and rewind the tape to learn the dances. Now as a junior dance major at Wright State, Kelly is learning how to forge his own path in the world of dance.

“There is a high from being on stage. It’s a feeling like no other,” said Kelly. Whether they are performing onstage, painting a portrait, or designing a set, students at Wright State’s Creative Arts Center are preparing for a lifelong career in the arts.

Wright State graduates are performing on Broadway, exhibiting their art in galleries, producing award-winning documentaries, and teaching music classes in public schools. This is no surprise to faculty, staff, alumni, and people throughout the community who have been watching Wright State’s visual and performing arts students for years.

"The performing arts departments at Wright State are among the gems of Dayton’s arts community. I never cease to be impressed with the quality of performances by WSU students," said Neal Gittleman, music director for the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra.

Gittleman has worked with Wright State theatre and dance students on West Side Story and with singers from the music department’s Collegiate Chorale on many occasions with the Dayton Philharmonic. “Wright State performing arts students are well trained and perform as poised young professionals. They’re a great addition to Dayton’s lively arts scene,” he said.

Ron Rollins, managing editor for content at the Dayton Daily News, also has words of praise. “The thing about the arts at Wright State is that until you really know about them, they come as a complete surprise. The school strikes some as a laid-back commuter school in the Midwest, and not some bastion of fine arts excellence."
But it only takes a little poking around to find the embarrassment of arts riches on campus, and the more you dig in the happier you’ll be,” he explained.

“In a town that has many rich resources, Wright State is right on the top of the pile,” said Burt Saidel, who along with his wife Alice, will serve as honorary chairs of the 2009 ArtsGala, an event that showcases the talents of theatre, music, and art students and raises money for arts scholarships.

Art and Art History

“Art has helped me understand the world,” said senior art history major Patrick Beatty. “With a liberal arts education you gain knowledge you wouldn’t otherwise have. All of the things I find so fascinating—other cultures, philosophy, religions—give you a broader awareness of the world around you.”

“Art is therapy, it’s relaxing,” explained senior fine arts major Katy Nelson. “It’s an easy topic for conversation and reaches out to people that might not always understand other things.”

Beatty and Nelson are among the 230 majors in the Department of Art and Art History. “We’ve seen huge growth over the last 10 years,” said Linda Caron, department chair. “We had about 100 students 10 years ago. This is a testimony to the vibrancy of the program.”

Along with building a strong foundation in the basics of art (drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and photography), students have the opportunity to learn from the professional, quality art exhibitions in the Robert & Elaine Stein Galleries. “This is a wonderful educational resource for students,” said Caron. “It often functions as an extra faculty member.”

Students get hands-on experience by meeting with exhibiting artists, working as art monitors in the galleries, and exhibiting their own artwork as seniors.

With a permanent collection of more than 400 objects and five exhibitions throughout the year, the galleries attract visitors from both on and off campus. “Collecting contemporary art is unique for a university in this area,” said gallery coordinator Tess Cortes, B.F.A. ’97. “We can share in the mission of bringing contemporary art and artists to the community.”
“Personally, I am a huge fan of the galleries and the visual arts program,” said Rollins. “The quality of exhibitions attracted to the galleries is first-rate and very uptown—a real plus for anybody in the area who likes fine contemporary art. The quality of the instruction for painting, photography, and sculpture, likewise, is great.”

**Music**

“Music is something I could not live without, so I might as well make that my career,” said senior Michael Sawzin, who is majoring in both music performance and music education. During his four years at Wright State, Sawzin has traveled to Italy with the Wright State University Saxophone Quartet, attended the Chamber Music Institute at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and played with various community groups including the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and the Lebanon Symphony Orchestra. “If I were at any other school, I would have never had these opportunities,” said Sawzin.

“We offer a variety of experiences and we’re not so big that students get lost in the crowd,” said Herb Dregalla, chair of the Department of Music. “Our faculty are great teachers, performers, and scholars who are interested in their students and their success.”

For Wright State graduate Kris Kropff, B.M. ’99, the breadth and depth of the music training she received at WSU has proven beneficial to her career. As vice president of marketing for The Lorenz Corporation in Dayton, she is responsible for sales and marketing for all of their music publishing divisions. “Unlike the narrow focus of a conservatory program, at WSU I was exposed to a wide variety of music, both choral and instrumental,” said Kropff. “Now that I have a career in music publishing, I rely continuously on the totality of skills and knowledge I gained at Wright State.”

Karen Nitsch began working on a music education degree 30 years ago. After raising two children and completing a B.A. in social work from Wright State, she decided to go back to school. Initially thinking about a master’s degree in social work, she decided to resume what she started three decades ago. “There was something that kept pulling me towards finishing that music degree,” said Nitsch.

“I really like the professors in the music department. They’re preparing students for what you need to be competitive,” said Nitsch. “Wright State has set the bar high. It’s a quality program with good classes and teachers.”
Acting and Musical Theatre

“I didn’t choose Wright State, I think it chose me,” said junior acting major Jasmine Batchelor. “When professors of the professional actor training program came to my high school program I felt at home with them. I felt that they understood me and had a lot to teach and I was most certainly right. It was one of the best decisions I ever made.”

“Each of the faculty and staff are exceptional—the best in their fields,” said Stuart McDowell, chair and artistic director of the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures. Along with the one-on-one attention they receive from faculty, Wright State’s students have more opportunities than at a larger school. “Our students are not competing with grad students for lead roles,” commented McDowell.

“This is the way young actors should be trained,” explained Mary Donahoe, area coordinator of acting/musical theatre. “We do a good job of preparing them to live the life of a working artist and to persevere. We prepare them professionally and emotionally and help develop their talents.”

“Wright State has given me the opportunity to develop skills that I never knew I had,” said senior musical theatre major Kelly Pekar. “The acting/musical theatre program challenges students to take risks, make self-discoveries, develop a solid technique, and figure out what it means to become a true artist.”

Along with performing, acting/musical theatre students work with guest artists and meet key professionals in the performing arts. “Our students become part of a network across the country with leading directors, performers, and composers,” said McDowell.

With intensive training from Wright State as their foundation, alumni are working in every aspect of commercial and not-for-profit theatre, television, and films. WSU grads perform in Broadway shows, national touring companies, cruise ship and theme park productions, regional theatres, television commercials, and films.

Brian McKnight, B.F.A. ’98, is lead faculty in performance at Sinclair Community College’s Department of Theatre and Dance. “I still recommend Wright State to my own students and I still believe in its ability to train the next generation of actors better than the majority of theatre programs in America,” he said.

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—BRIAN MCKNIGHT, B.F.A. ’98
Design/Technology

On any weekday afternoon, the scene shop at Wright State University is filled with students, constructing and painting sets for one of the university’s productions. “Every six weeks you get to create a whole new world,” said Pam Knauert Lavarnway, area coordinator for design/technology/stage management.

“It’s very physical. Sometimes it reeks of back pain,” said senior Phil Tokarsky, who designed the set for Smokey Joe’s Cafe. He also interned at the Huron Playhouse in Huron, Ohio, where he was the first undergraduate to design a set. When he leaves Wright State, Tokarsky will have a portfolio of his work to show prospective employers or graduate schools. “They want to see that you’ve gotten past the nitty-gritty, not just the design but that you’ve actually built it.”

“Anyone who wants to work in the field can when they graduate,” said Lavarnway. From Cirque du Soleil and Blue Man Group productions in Las Vegas to Steppenwolf in Chicago, audiences across the country are seeing the work of Wright State alumni. “Our students are so successful because this program is design-heavy and provides hands-on practical experience,” she said. “Our production budgets and the size of the shows are unusual for an undergraduate program. We hold ourselves to professional standards.”

Senior Natasha Blanchette is from Seattle, Washington. Her high school theatre director introduced her to Wright State’s program. “The one thing that a lot of alumni have said is that Wright State grads are skilled in multiple areas, which is helpful to get jobs,” said Blanchette, who would like to be a carpenter for a touring show or a production based in Chicago. “I like being able to do something I enjoy. I essentially get to make someone’s make-believe real,” she said.

Dance

“Tough, disciplined, and intensive” are three adjectives used by Teressa Wylie McWilliams to describe the dance program at Wright State. As coordinator of dance, McWilliams and two other faculty members train dance majors to excel in the highly competitive world of professional dance.

“All of our students perform before they leave and know how to produce a concert before they leave. They understand how to teach themselves before they graduate,” said McWilliams.

Motion Pictures

“We want to make films that matter. That is what is special about our program,” said Charles Derry, area coordinator of motion pictures.

Judging by the numerous awards won by Wright State students and alumni, this is a lesson well learned. From Emmy awards to Golden Globes to grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the accomplishments of Wright State graduates are wide-ranging.

“My education at Wright State was comparable if not better than my friends had at leading graduate schools,” said Karri O’Reilly, B.F.A. ‘94, who lived and worked in Los Angeles for a number of years. “Wright State offers more hands-on experience and the focus on filmmaking is broader. Everybody gets to make their own films.”

For motion pictures majors Chase Whiteside and Kasey Hosp, their filmmaking opportunities as undergraduates have been invaluable. “My most rewarding experiences at Wright State have been of working with my colleagues...”
throughout the process of bringing a film to completion—from idea to paper, from paper to film, from film to screen,” said Whiteside. “The film program here has not only prepared me for the rigorous academic schedule of a graduate-level program, but it has also prepared me to work confidently on a professional film set.”

According to Hosp, “The professors, along with my peers, have undoubtedly opened my eyes to new perspectives, new ways of thinking, and a new way of ‘being.’ From lectures to casual conversations to working on projects such as the junior films, every experience I have had has been a rewarding and exciting one. I believe being in such a difficult program with such high standards and a heavy workload has prepared me for any task that will be thrown my way in graduate school and in my career.”

O’Reilly returned to Dayton four years ago and continues to work on films all over the country and the world. She recently produced *Linewatch*, starring Cuba Gooding Jr., and co-produced the 3-D feature film *The Dark Country*. She also worked on *Blue Car*, which was filmed in Dayton and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2002. Some of her other well-known credits include *Boogie Nights*, *Wedding Crashers*, and *Nothing to Lose*.

O’Reilly is actively involved in lobbying Ohio lawmakers to offer statewide tax incentives for filmmakers. “Ohio is one of only eight states that has no incentives,” she said.

In spite of the lack of tax incentives, Dayton is one of the more attractive areas in the state for filmmakers. “No city in Ohio has more film people and more talent than in Dayton,” said Derry. “Independent productions come here and take advantage of our students and alumni.”

**ArtsGala showcases collaboration**

“I predicted this would be the most successful and joyous evening in the panoply of Dayton events. Everything came true,” said Burt Saidel, who served on the original committee that planned the first ArtsGala.

“ArtsGala involves all of the arts and encompasses everything Wright State has to offer,” said Alice Saidel, M.Hum. ‘84. “I’ve never been to anything like it. The uniqueness of the event makes it special.”

Patrons of ArtsGala may enjoy a Broadway revue, students creating works of art, excerpts from student films, and performances from Wright State’s musical ensembles—all in the same evening.

“ArtsGala is a venue for these very talented students to demonstrate the quality of the instruction they receive here. It exposes many people in the community to these marvelous programs,” said Lorna Dawes, B.A. ’77, who worked at Wright State for 19 years in university and community events and is the former executive director of Dayton’s Muse Machine, a nationally recognized arts education organization.

For faculty, staff, and students, ArtsGala is the culmination of all of the various collaborations throughout the year, where the arts departments work together to support and promote one another. “This incredibly unique event is successful because of the collaboration,” said Dregalla. “At other schools, the arts departments are entities unto themselves. In fact, at other schools, they are in direct competition with one another.”

ArtsGala celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2009. Since its inception, ArtsGala has generated $940,000 for scholarships. “The ArtsGala scholarship helped me to continue my education without taking out egregious loans,” said Beatty. “It helps soften that blow.”

“It took so much off my shoulders. I can enjoy and value my college experience without working a job,” said Nelson. “My future may be just that much brighter because I got that scholarship opportunity.” Nelson hopes to give back one day and help sponsor a scholarship as an alumna.
Building for the Future

Schuster gift benefits Creative Arts Center

The arts have been a priority for Wright State since the early years of the university. The Creative Arts Center opened in 1973 in what was then a state-of-the-art facility. As enrollment in the arts continues to grow and technology evolves at a frenzied pace, the Creative Arts Center must also adapt for the future.

Wright State has embarked on a campaign to raise $26 million for the modernization and expansion of the Creative Arts Center. While most of the project will be financed with federal support, funds earmarked for the expansion by the university, and support from the corporate and foundation community, more than $13 million of private support is needed.

Along with new classrooms, studios, and rehearsal spaces, the project includes an in-house film studio for the Motion Pictures program; renovation, modernization, and soundproofing of the concert hall; soundproofing of rehearsal facilities; improvements in lighting, humidity, and temperature control for the art galleries; a more prominent, accessible entrance to the Creative Arts Center; and additional restrooms for theatre, gallery, and concert patrons.

One of the private donors who will make this project possible is Benjamin Schuster, M.D. A renowned cardiologist, Dr. Schuster and his late wife, Marian, have been leading supporters of the arts and were instrumental in building the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center in downtown Dayton.

Dr. Schuster has long had ties to the university—he has been clinical professor of medicine at Wright State since 1975. “It was a natural thing to support Wright State’s creative arts,” he said. “The creative arts elevate the whole spirit of a community. There is an old adage that industry feeds the stomach, but the arts feed the heart and soul.”

As someone who gravitated almost intuitively to the arts in his youth, Dr. Schuster attends Wright State’s theatre productions whenever he can. “They have wonderful musicals and plays and a great art gallery,” he said. “The arts give the university a certain cachet.”

Through his philanthropy, Dr. Schuster hopes to serve as a positive role model for others and inspire them to give. “It really is my honor to be involved with the Creative Arts Center,” he explained. “If you give with passion, you will receive so much more in return.”

Improving the Quality of Life

Artist Robert Motherwell once said, “Art is much less important than life, but what a poor life without it.”

For those with a love for the arts, it is painful, if not impossible, to imagine a world without art museums, dance, opera, cinema, theatre, or music. The arts feed their souls, warm their hearts, and open their minds.

“It is becoming increasingly clear in our society that the arts affect the quality of life,” said Dawes. “The arts draw employees to a community and enhance the quality of education at all levels from pre-K to university.”

The vibrancy of the local arts scene makes Dayton an attractive city for Wright State graduates. “It’s great to live in place where, in one weekend and within a three-mile radius, you can take in a modern dance performance, a gallery opening featuring local artists, a musical by a national touring company, a classical concert by some incredibly fine musicians, and the performance of a killer jazz combo. That these diverse opportunities exist in a mid-size city is even more impressive and exciting,” said Kropff.

Aviation photographer Dan Patterson, B.F.A. ’76, travels all over the world but still calls Dayton home. During the last three decades, he has seen tremendous growth in the arts at Wright State and throughout the Dayton region. “When I was a student, the arts department was in a garage at the bottom of the hill. Wright State has always had an art department and I think that’s important,” he said.

“This community really appreciates the arts. This says a huge thing about Wright State and the Dayton community,” said Charles Taylor, dean, College of Liberal Arts.

Along with making a city a more attractive place in which to live and work, the arts open a community to the world around them.

“People who go to the symphony or come see a play view the world differently,” said McWilliams. “For them the world is textured, not black and white.”

Above all else, the arts enrich the lives of others—at Wright State University, in Dayton, Ohio, and throughout the world.

“If you’re a sculptor, painter, or musician, you’re advancing the human experience,” said Beatty. “The arts in general give back to humanity as a whole.”
When Michael Di Flora, ’72, started purchasing vacant homes in South Park in 2006 to stave off an invasion of speculative and absentee landlords in Dayton’s largest historic district, he had no clue his efforts and those of other Wright State family members would help spark a physical and social transformation that would garner the neighborhood national attention.

Last spring, South Park, at 24 blocks and more than 700 structures, won a national first-prize award for Neighborhood of the Year in the Physical Revitalization/Beautification category. The annual award from Neighborhoods USA recognizes projects initiated by a neighborhood group that focuses on parks, green spaces, housing improvement, lighting, litter control, traffic management, signs, and business district enhancement.

The award caps two years of an ongoing neighborhood transformation involving 7,000 volunteer hours, around $3 million in home investments, curb appeal contests, the development of an ambitious neighborhood master plan with volunteers from the American Institute of Architects, an October 2007 Rehabarama, and the launch of an annual neighborhood jazz festival.

It all started with a serendipitous meeting at Wright State in 2006, when Di Flora met South Park native Theresa Gasper while both were serving on the university’s Foundation Board of Trustees. Gasper is married to 1978 WSU graduate and entrepreneur David Gasper.

THE WSU FAMILY TRANSFORMS
Di Flora, a retired engineer, had noticed the housing in South Park slip as the predatory lending crisis first began to grip the area. So did Gasper, the fourth generation of her family to be raised in South Park who had a lifelong dream of reclaiming her neighborhood home to save it.

Their entrepreneurial approach: Buy as many homes as possible and fix them up “to raise up the whole neighborhood at once,” Di Flora said. “It makes residents feel their homes have value and bolsters their sense of pride,” Di Flora said. “As other homes sell, people begin perceiving their homes as more valuable and they take the time to make improvements. Knowing now that these homes are sought-after means people will spend the time and money investing in the neighborhood. It’s no longer a lost cause.”

**Restoration in progress**

South Park’s structures date to the 1880s and early 20th century. The homes include examples of Romanesque Revival, Second Empire, High Victorian, Italianate, Queen Anne, Federal, and Craftsman architecture. While several homes had been rehabbed by long-time South Park residents, many were falling apart, boarded up, and on the brink of demolition.

Through their separate companies—Di Flora’s The Home Group, L.L.C. and Gasper’s Full Circle Development, L.L.C.—the two bought 30 homes within a year, renovating 10 of them in time for the Rehabarama.
that showcased their improvement efforts and brought 6,000 visitors to the neighborhood. Combined, they invested $2.9 million into turning around the vacant homes. Neither uses public funding for their efforts.

“Mike was buying everything in sight,” Gasper said. Before long, the neighborhood was dotted with large signs in the yards of dilapidated homes reading “restoration in progress.”

For some home purchases, Gasper and Di Flora spent months tracking down the deeds in probate court or bringing them out of foreclosure or convincing out-of-state owners to sell to them. It took two years for Gasper to buy her family home and grandmother’s home, which stood side-by-side and sat vacant for five to six years and will require about $140,000 in improvements. “There was a big hole in the roof, and when I walked in to see it for the first time, rain was pouring into the front room,” she said. “The copper pipes and wiring had been stripped—I was pretty upset.”

Gasper and Di Flora do a lot of the rehab work themselves, using local artisans and resources as much as possible. “We gut these homes so they’re virtually maintenance free,” said Di Flora, who does most of the interior work on his homes. “That’s what is appealing to prospective buyers. They want the charm, but not the time-intensive maintenance.”

“It is not uncommon to find a millionaire living next to a low-income, multigenerational family here. It feels incredibly real, that this is the way people are supposed to live.”

—Theresa Gasper

It was their initial breakneck revitalization during 2007 that spurred a wave of reinvestment and gave an energy boost to the neighborhood’s existing rehabilitation culture. Their efforts were embraced by South Park’s close-knit community of urban enthusiasts. “People got a buzz,” Gasper said.

Thirty-six homeowners took advantage of a paint discount Di Flora arranged at a nearby Sherwin Williams and 40 participated in a curb appeal contest. All total, about 76 homeowners gave their properties a facelift in a year’s time, Gasper said.

“When we started there were 100 vacant homes,” said Di Flora, who walks the neighborhood frequently to keep track of changes. “I estimate 500 of the 700 homes in the neighborhood have been touched since we started doing this. It doesn’t look like the same neighborhood from two years ago.”

Most of the rehabbed homes maintain their historic character with the modern conveniences of living in an urban setting. Exposed brick, Craftsman woodwork, original fireplaces, and Eastlake-style carved woodwork meet LCD televisions, skylights, high-speed Internet, reclaimed wood floors, and custom staircase handrails.

**Quality of life**

The neighborhood’s new vibrancy is an example of the kind of quality of life that attracts a creative class of workers, a demographic on which the Dayton region is pinning its hopes for an economic revitalization.

Creative class workers—engineers, artists, health care professionals, professors, and other workers with a high degree of education who think or create for a living—are attracted to socioeconomic diversity and strong, highly social neighborhoods.

Much of the neighborhood’s appeal comes from a long history of socioeconomic diversity. In the early 20th century, National Cash Register Co. owner John H. Patterson wanted to fix up the area known as Slidertown, now called South Park, near his new factory on South Main Street.
Boys living in the neighborhood’s shanties were breaking his factory windows with rocks, so he put them to work with beautification projects. The neighborhood developed into a pleasant community where his factory workers lived next door to NCR executives, and the company held picnics in the green space along Park Drive Boulevard, now home to the neighborhood jazz festival.

That diversity persists today. A single street can see doctors, attorneys, architects, a multitude of college professors, writers, social workers, realtors, design professionals, laborers, single working moms, and large families.

The neighborhood is also home to more than 20 Wright State families—employees, faculty, and alumni.

“It is not uncommon to find a millionaire living next to a low-income, multigenerational family here,” Gasper said. “It feels incredibly real, that this is the way people are supposed to live. We share the same values, and we’re all in this together. That makes a neighborhood successful.”

The neighborhood is famous for its porch, patio, and deck parties, or PPD’s, and on Friday nights, neighbors hang out at the South Park Tavern at the corner of Oak and Wayne streets. The tavern was opened by Wright State alum Bill Daniels, owner of The Pizza Factory, a South Park staple and a favorite gourmet pizza for locals.
It’s that kind of quality of life that attracted Christopher Rowley to Dayton from Washington, D.C., in 2007. The 41-year-old father, who conducts imagery analysis for search and rescue organizations, and his wife found the vibrant lifestyle and authenticity they wanted for their young family in South Park’s close-knit community.

“I’m originally from the Midwest and appreciate the quality of life here,” Rowley said. “The cost of living here is full of character and we feel lucky to have found it.”

As more professionals like Rowley move in and the neighborhood develops a strong community, those who “don’t care about this are moving out,” Di Flora said.

After winning the Neighborhood of the Year award in May, the neighborhood sold 15 homes almost instantly, said Di Flora, who has seen demand for South Park housing increase along with property values.

Homes currently sell at prices ranging from $59,000 for an urban, modern bungalow, to $90,000 for a sweet cottage with a gingerbread porch, to $249,000 for one of The Home Group Realty’s completely rehabbed Eastlake two-story homes with custom-designed kitchens. As they sell those homes, they’ll buy more.

The two Wright State families—Di Flora and Gasper and their respective spouses—will continue

When urban theorist Richard Florida came to Wright State University in March 2007 as part of WSU’s Presidential Lecture Series, he inspired several regional leaders with his theory that if a region isn’t attracting a “creative class” of workers, its economy will wither and die.

According to Florida’s economic development theories, a “high bohemian” class of artists, engineers, musicians, high-tech workers, and creative thinkers creates a critical mass of workers and quality of life that attracts cutting-edge employers. Think Portland, Oregon; Toronto, Canada; and Austin, Texas.

Immediately following Florida’s visit, Wright State University was at the center of a movement to grow the creative class in the Dayton region to improve the quality of life and transform its economy.

A task force representing 21 area organizations was assembled by the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) to bring Florida and his Creative Communities Leadership Project to the greater Dayton and Springfield region. Thirty-two “catalysts,” or change agents, were selected from among the region’s citizenry to work with Florida’s company, the Creative Class Group, to put his ideas to work.

The Dayton region’s initiative, now called DaytonCREATE, is among seven creative class initiatives in cities around the United States and Australia.

DaytonCREATE has developed five initiatives to revitalize the region’s economic competitiveness using Florida’s theories and based on the region’s existing strengths:

- **The Young Creatives Summit** will bring together diverse young talent, business leaders, nonprofits, universities, and elected officials to address the flight of young talent from the region.
- **This Is Dayton** focuses on rebuilding community pride to turn residents into ambassadors promoting the area’s strengths.
- **The Innovation Collaborative** will integrate the area’s rich concentration of artists, engineers, and skilled workers to stimulate a stronger economy and promote job creation through innovative collaboration.
What is the creative class?

- **Dayton Creative Incubator** will bring life back to one or several vacant downtown spaces by working with building owners to allow local artists to use the spaces for creating and displaying art and exchanging ideas.
- **Film Dayton** will leverage the strength of WSU’s award-winning motion pictures program to grow the area’s film industry.

Film Dayton was the brainchild of catalyst Debra Wilburn, WSU assistant director of career services, and is supported by Emmy-award winners Julia Reichart, professor of motion pictures/theatre arts, and Steven Bognar, a 1986 graduate of the motion pictures program.

“As we work to transform the communities we serve, this is a visible link between our College of Liberal Arts and the region,” Hopkins said.

“The remarkable program at Wright State University, combined with the nucleus of critically acclaimed filmmakers and high-tech post-production technologies, creates an environment ripe for collaboration and job creation,” said Gloria Skurski, director of education and broadcast services for ThinkTV–Greater Dayton Public Television and president of Film Dayton, during an October 2008 meeting with Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

In October, WSU’s DaytaOhio and Joshi Center hosted the Innovation Collaborative’s “Whole Brain Summit,” which brought together left-brained engineers and right-brained artists to meet each other, network, and make plans for a 2009 Walk on Water demonstration at Riverscape in downtown Dayton.

For more information: [http://daytoncreate.org](http://daytoncreate.org)

The creative class describes 40 million workers—30 percent of the U.S. workforce—expected to be the core of economic growth in our future economy, according to Richard Florida, author of the bestselling book *Rise of the Creative Class* and one of the world’s leading public intellectuals on economic competitiveness.

Those workers fall into two categories: creative professionals, or the classic knowledge-based workers in health care, business and finance, the legal sector, and education; and super creatives, or scientists, engineers, techies, innovators, and researchers, as well as artists, designers, writers, and musicians.

The creative class earns more than 50 percent of all wages and salaries in the United States, as much as the manufacturing and service sectors combined. It also controls nearly 70 percent—a 500 billion—or of the discretionary income in the U.S., more than double that of the manufacturing and service sectors combined.

Four components—the “four T’s”—drive creative class growth and serve as the basis for the Dayton region’s creative class effort:

**Talent:** A community’s ability to attract and retain top talent is a driving force behind any effective economic strategy.

**Technology:** Technology and innovation are critical components of a community or organization’s ability to drive economic growth. Universities provide important avenues for transferring research, ideas, and innovation into marketable and sustainable products.

**Tolerance:** Creative workers need communities, organizations, and peers that are open to new ideas and different people. Places receptive to immigration, alternative lifestyles, and new views on social status and power structures will benefit significantly in the creative age.

**Territorial Assets:** More than ever before, place matters. Territorial assets are the distinct “vibe” that makes communities unique from one another. People want to live in communities that are unique and inspiring to them.

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**ABOUT SOUTH PARK**

- Located south of downtown Dayton along Wayne Avenue, bounded by Miami Valley Hospital and the University of Dayton
- Approximately 68 acres and 24 blocks
- 729 residential properties
- Between 2005 and 2007, 77 homes sold with an average sale price of $81,857
- Homes average 1,465 square feet; 110 years in age; 2 stories; 3 bedrooms; and 1.5 bathrooms
- On August 23, 1984, South Park was registered on the National Register of Historic Places
Teachers say there are moments in mathematics classes when a math concept “clicks” with a student. But for many first-year college students starting an engineering curriculum with a required calculus course, sometimes that click doesn’t happen. And it leads many students to drop out of engineering to switch majors, or drop out of college altogether.

It’s a primary reason the United States’ graduation of engineers has slowed compared to other countries, a trend warned about in the 2005 National Academy of Sciences’ white paper, “Rising Above the Gathering Storm.”

"If state universities are going to answer the country’s call for graduating more engineers then we have to figure out a way of making a more accessible curriculum that has the rigor of a traditional curriculum," Klingbeil said.

The model, now in its third phase after funding from three previous NSF grants, restructured the way engineering mathematics is taught to students to improve retention and graduation. It introduces only the salient math topics actually used in core entry-level engineering courses, delivering the math in a just-in-time method.

The changes began with a new freshman-level introductory engineering mathematics course, EGR 101, taught by engineering faculty and containing distilled mathematical topics covered later in the curriculum. Students are able to advance in the engineering curriculum without first completing the required calculus sequence.

"The number one fear of students wanting to be engineers is that they won’t be able to handle the math courses," Klingbeil said. "While math is really important for engineering, it’s not necessarily a litmus test for whether or not you could be a great engineer."

The model makes the engineering curriculum more accessible to incoming students from diverse educational, social, and economic backgrounds and is expected to have a profound effect on the recruitment and retention of high-risk students.

In 2004–05, 78 percent of students who took the new engineering math program stayed with the program, an increase of 10 percent compared to the previous four years. The new engineering math program also improved the grades of students who took Calculus I—89 percent of the students who had taken EGR 101 before taking Calculus earned a grade of “C” or better. Sixty percent of the students who had not taken the new course earned a “C” or better in Calculus I.

Co-principal investigators are Kuldip Rattan, electrical engineering; Michael Raymer, computer science and engineering; David Reynolds, biomedical, industrial and human factors engineering; and Richard Mercer, mathematics and statistics.

The paper warned policymakers that the U.S. faced immense challenges in maintaining its competitiveness with countries like China and India, who combined graduated 13 times more engineers than the U.S. in 2004.

But soon 15 colleges around the country will learn how to eliminate that bottleneck in their engineering programs from Wright State University’s successful engineering mathematics education reform model, which has developed new ways to teach math in engineering courses to help students overcome math hurdles and improve graduation rates.

A new $2 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant awarded this summer to the program, “A National Model for Engineering Mathematics,” will help those institutions adopt the new curriculum developed by Nathan Klingbeil, professor of mechanical engineering, along with other faculty at Wright State.

“The traditional curriculum is front-ended with math prerequisites that cause students to drop out,” said Klingbeil. “Every institution in the country is experiencing this.”

The inability of incoming students to successfully advance past the traditional freshman calculus sequence is a primary cause of attrition in engineering programs across the country, according to Klingbeil.

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Scholarships totaling nearly $4 million are now available to graduating high school seniors and current college students interested in pursuing careers in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine.

Go to www.wright.edu/chooseohiofirst to apply.

These Choose Ohio First scholarship awards are part of the Ohio Innovation Partnership created by the Ohio General Assembly to assist Ohio’s higher education institutions in building the talent and research pipelines critical to the state’s economic development.

Governor Ted Strickland and the Ohio General Assembly have invested more than $250 million to remake Ohio’s economy through collaborative programs in higher education, particularly in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine, known as STEMM.

“There’s nothing more crucial to our economic future than investing in the people of Ohio,” said Governor Strickland.

The competitive awards are based on collaborations between colleges, universities, and their Ohio business and industry partners that will have the most impact on advancing Ohio’s position in the world markets including aerospace, medicine, computer technology, and alternative energy, according to the Ohio Board of Regents.

By 2011, more than 1,200 jobs in the areas of human effectiveness/performance, sensors, and information technology will be relocated to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as a result of the 2005 Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC). The Dayton Regional Collaborative, recognizing the region’s need for a STEMM-educated workforce to fill those significant needs, requested the Choose Ohio First funding to award scholarships in these areas.

“In the coming years, the Dayton region will need thousands of new employees to fill these and other anticipated openings in the STEMM fields, including aerospace, information technology, advanced materials and manufacturing, and human sciences and health care,” said David R. Hopkins, president of Wright State University. “These scholarships represent higher education’s contribution to the future of Ohio.”

The proposal, submitted by the eight area institutions making up the Dayton Regional Collaborative and led by Wright State, not only identified a commitment to outstanding programs but also met the rigid House Bill 119 guidelines that focus on STEMM recruitment and retention as they relate to building Ohio’s new economy.

The Dayton Regional Collaborative, thanks to the funding, plans to:

- Offer approximately 1,000 scholarships through the eight institutions, ranging from $1,500 to $4,700
- Increase enrollment in STEMM disciplines by a minimum of 10 percent, producing a net additional 335 graduates per year in the targeted STEMM disciplines
- Form a Dayton Area Undergraduate Studies Institute to employ a curriculum-sharing model so the STEMM scholarship recipients have access to all institutions’ program strengths
- Develop and implement new “inquiry-based” curriculum strategies to attract, retain, prepare, and yield a diverse pool of STEMM graduates
- Provide undergraduate research, co-op, and internship opportunities to ensure graduates’ employment and keep them in the state of Ohio

Stressing collaboration over competition, Chancellor Fingerhut emphasized the need for Ohio to regain its prominent role in the areas of scholarship and research. To help reach that goal, the University System of Ohio’s 10-year strategic plan for higher education calls for a 110 percent increase in bachelor’s degrees in STEMM disciplines by 2017.

Increasing the production of these high-demand degrees is a top priority of the state’s business community. Many of the nearly 500 partners in the Dayton Regional Collaborative from government, industry, and health care agreed to create meaningful undergraduate research, co-op, and internship positions for the Choose Ohio First scholars. 

The Dayton Regional Collaborative—Wright State University, Central State University, the University of Dayton, Wittenberg University, Clark State, Edison, Sinclair and Southern State community colleges, along with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and representatives from government, industry, and health care—received funding for its proposal “Growing the STEMM Pipeline in the Dayton Region—Becoming an International Center of Excellence for Human Effectiveness/Human Performance.”
MICHELLE SARMIENTO knows a little something about investing and leadership. She ought to. As a marketing associate for James Investment Research, a company that has been managing investment portfolios for 36 years, Sarmiento is keenly aware of the responsibility that comes with managing the $2 billion that the company currently has under its care.

As an undergraduate at WSU, Sarmiento was awarded numerous leadership awards, served as the president of the Dean’s Student Advisory Board in the Raj Soin College of Business, and was a member of the team that won the national Student Advancement for Management Case Competition. On top of all of these accomplishments, she was a stand-out athlete in soccer.

Sarmiento continues her leadership path as a volunteer for Adventures for Wish Kids and United Rehabilitation Services. She is also taking classes to become a Certified Financial Planner.

This busy schedule doesn’t stop Sarmiento from a strong desire to see the students at her alma mater succeed. She has created a new scholarship to benefit business students who demonstrate outstanding leadership. “I wanted to give back,” says Sarmiento, “to give another student the opportunity to have the WSU experience that I had.”
It’s hard to believe that Sarmiento has only been in the WSU alumni ranks for a year, having earned her bachelor’s in 2006 and MBA in 2007. She credits her success to many of her professors. “They have so many great business experiences from which to learn. They taught me not only book knowledge, but ‘real-world’ business information.”

Because more than 40 percent of WSU’s incoming students are first-generation college students and families are facing hardships during this period of economic uncertainty, Sarmiento recognized the dire need for additional student financial support. She hopes that one day she is able to offer a full scholarship to a deserving student. “Each year, I hope to add a little more to the scholarship, so that the principal remains at the university in perpetuity and investment earnings are used each year to make scholarship awards.”

The first Michelle Sarmiento Student Advisory Board Scholarship was awarded in 2008 to Jaime Schiferl. Schiferl is pursuing her degree in marketing, with a minor in international business, and is a member of the College of Business Dean’s Student Advisory Board and Marketing Advisory Board. “As this year’s recipient, I am grateful for the opportunities this award will provide me,” Schiferl wrote in her thank-you letter. “I have excelled academically and have become very involved within the college. Thank you for your contribution to my future!”

This is one investment that is sure to outperform anything on Wall Street.

THE 2008 HERITAGE SOCIETIES GALA celebrated past, present, and future supporters who help inspire new heights of success at Wright State University. The Heritage Societies induction ceremony is a special tradition of formally honoring those who give generously to Wright State.

Commemorative wine glasses were lifted to toast the 52 individuals and 24 community partners who joined the ranks of more than 1,000 Heritage Societies members whose cumulative giving has set the standard for philanthropy at Wright State. President David R. Hopkins and President Emeritus Robert Kegerreis welcomed three new inductees to the Robert J. Kegerreis Society: Dr. Benjamin Schuster, Howard and Sally Stevens, and Alan and Brenda Rinzler.

“Without our donors, our university would not be able to invest in the dreams and success of students with a high-quality and affordable education,” President Hopkins said to the nearly 300 guests. “Wright State’s future is bright because you are dedicated to our mission and region.”

For this year’s event, students were invited to participate and meet those who help make their academic dreams come true. The new Student Philanthropy Council’s (SPC) founding members enjoyed meeting many new friends throughout the evening. “I didn’t realize that so many people supported the university in this way,” said LeAnn Perkins, SPC secretary. “I hope someday I can give back to help other students like me.”

A formal program concluded with Congressman Dave Hobson and President Hopkins awarding the Congressman Dave Hobson Spirit of Innovation Award. This prestigious award was established in 2001 to honor individuals who demonstrate a true spirit of innovation by their personal courage, character, philosophy, and accomplishments. Michael Adams was the recipient of this award for 2008. Adams is a 1970 graduate of Wright State University and a dedicated university volunteer.

“A Toast to the Future” was a special celebration of the legacy created by those individuals and community partners who share a vision of success for the students and campus at Wright State University.
CLASS OF 1968
Kathy Sheller McCann (B.A.) is the author of Dragon Grip, a journal documenting her late husband’s battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

CLASS OF 1969
Nancy Jo Curtlett Farnan (B.S.Ed.) is director of the School of Teacher Education at San Diego State University. She has an M.A. from San Diego State and a Ph.D. from a collaborative advanced graduate program involving Claremont Graduate University and San Diego State. She joined the faculty at San Diego State in the late 1980s and advanced to professor in the early 1990s. She has published several books and her articles have appeared in literary journals.

CLASS OF 1971
William Albrey (B.S.; ’87, Ph.D.) retired from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base after 36 years of service. He is an associate professor in the Boonshoft School of Medicine’s Department of Community Health and an adjunct professor in Wright State University’s Department of Psychology.

CLASS OF 1974
David Beronà (B.S.Ed.) authored Wordless Books: The Original Graphic Novels, published in 2008 by Harry N. Abrams, Inc. He is director of the Lamson Library at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire and a member of the visiting faculty at the Center for Cartoon Studies in Vermont. He has lectured on wordless novels and the history of the graphic novel at Plymouth State University, University of Rhode Island, and the University of New England. A recognized authority on woodcut novels and wordless comics, Beronà has presented papers at national conferences and symposiums held at Yale, University of Massachusetts, and University of Rhode Island. He is a regular book reviewer and contributor to Library Journal, Print Quarterly, and the International Journal of Comic Art.

Larry Gault (B.A.) is vice president of operations for Greene Health Partners. Gault has been employed with Greene Memorial Hospital since 1986. He has held key leadership positions including director of behavioral services, director of the Beavercreek HealthPark, and most recently as director of ambulatory services. He has a Master of Public Administration from the University of Dayton.

Charlie Painter (M.Ed.) marked his 500th career coaching tennis victory at Beavercreek High School in Fall 2008. He is currently 508-235. Painter is a Pre-Calculus and Algebra II teacher and head boys and girls tennis coach at Beavercreek. He is the former head tennis coach at Wright State University and is a member of both the Dayton Amateur Tennis Association and Miami Valley Tennis Coaches Halls of Fame. He lives in Dayton, OH, with his wife of 32 years, Karen, and their children, Cristian and Tory.

CLASS OF 1975
Karen Bowden-Cox (M.Ed.) is the author of Honorable Deception... where twisted paths lead, published in December 2008 by Tate Publishing. The first in a four-book series, the Christian historical fiction romance is based on Bowden-Cox’s German grandparents, five generations removed. A retired teacher, Bowden-Cox taught for Oakwood and Centerville, OH, public schools.

J. Donald Mottley (B.A.; ’76 M.S.), an attorney in the Columbus office of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, is chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Taxation Committee.

Terry Phipps (M.S.) received the Cedarville University Faculty Teaching Effectiveness Award for 21 years of service. This award is presented based on student evaluations, department chair and peer recommendations, performance of students in classes or after graduation, and use of instructional technology. A faculty member at Cedarville University since 1978, Phipps serves as professor of biology. He earned his M.S. in 1974 and now lives in Urbana, OH.

CLASS OF 1976
Bob Grote (B.S.B.) and his son, Scott, were profiled by sports columnist Tom Archdeacon in the Dayton Daily-News. Grote was the leading scorer at Wright State for three seasons from 1974 to 1976. A member of the Wright State Athletics Hall of Fame, he ranks 10th on WSU’s all-time scoring list with 1,406 points. The Wright State basketball and baseball MVP in 1975 and 1976, he pitched professionally as part of the New York Mets organization. Grote was an assistant coach for Wright State’s 1983 Division II National Championship team. His son, Scott, plays forward for the Raiders 2008–09 season, having sat out the 2007–08 season following his transfer from Duquesne.

Ann Wall Weisberger (B.A.) wrote her first novel, The Personal History of Rachel DuPree, which was released in England and has been recognized in the UK’s Red Magazine as a top three “must read.” This novel, a project that began eight years ago, was inspired by a photograph of an unnamed woman Ann saw during a visit to a sod dugout on the outskirts of Badlands National Park. In her spare time, Ann and her husband, Rob (’77 B.S.B.), are avid hikers, visiting at least one national park each year. Ann is currently at work on her next novel.

CLASS OF 1978
Betsy Price (B.S.Ed.) released her newest book, Managing Technology in Our Schools: Establishing Goals and Creating a Plan, which focuses on educating the next generation. Price is an associate faculty member at The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

CLASS OF 1979
Susan Branscome (B.S.B.) received the Greater Cincinnati Athena® Award. Named after the Greek goddess of wisdom, the Athena® Award honors individuals who achieve success in their careers, give back to their communities, and actively assist women in realizing their full potential. In 1998, Branscome founded Q10 Triad Capital Advisors Inc., a mortgage-banking firm. Today, the company possesses a $530 million commercial mortgage-servicing portfolio. Branscome was one of the founding members of the Cincinnati chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women, where experienced professionals serve as a resource to those new to the profession. She has also served on the University of Cincinnati’s Board of Executive Advisors in Real Estate, mentoring young women in real estate through their college years. In 2007, Branscome helped organize Beyond the Glass Ceiling, a seminar to help women overcome career obstacles while balancing family life and personal goals.

CLASS OF 1980
Dennis Dimiduk (B.S.M.S.E.) has received a 2008 Alumni Achievement Award from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Dimiduk has conducted research at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base since 1977. He began as a part-time staff engineer during his undergraduate career at Wright State. He continued his research full time while earning a master’s degree and doctorate in materials engineering and metallurgical science from Carnegie Mellon in 1984 and 1989, respectively. After receiving his Ph.D., Dimiduk initiated research utilizing computer simulation on the influence of chemistry on alloys, a topic he continues to pursue today. He now directs all advanced metallics research, leads the joint Air Force-DARPA Accelerated Insertion of Materials Program, and oversees the Air Force-Ohio State University joint program on Accelerated Metals Development by Computation.

Ralph Heyer (B.S.) has more than 28 years of experience in licensing, inspection and enforcement, regulations, and health physics with both the state and federal governments. He has worked for the National Institutes of Health, Texas Department of State Health Services, and United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He has served as Thermo Fisher Scientific (formerly Texas Nuclear, TN Technologies, Thermo MeasureTech) manager of technical services, manager of regulatory affairs, and corporate radiation safety officer. He is also technical advisor to Texas State Technical College and the CRCPD. Heyer is now an instructor for Thermo Fisher Scientific and has trained thousands of students in nuclear safety in the oil and gas industry over the past 10 years. He has been honored for his technical support by Texas State Technical College, where part of a building will be named after him.
CLASS OF 1981
Barbara Jo “BJ” White-Olsen (B.S.) was inducted into Fairborn, OH, City Schools’ Hall of Honor. She is a 1972 graduate from Fairborn Park Hills High School, where she was a member of the newspaper staff. She has a master’s degree in public administration from Troy State University and a master’s degree in national resources strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University. Washington, D.C. White-Olsen began her government career in 1973 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She is currently director for budget management and execution for the U.S. Air Force. She and her husband, David, reside in Centreville, VA.

CLASS OF 1982
Anthony Aretz (M.A.) is the sixth president of the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, OH. He was previously the academic vice president at Christian Brothers University. He had a 20-year career as a faculty member for the USAF Academy in Colorado and is recognized nationally for his work in educational assessment and engineering psychology. Aretz has a Ph.D. in engineering psychology from the University of Illinois.

Galen Bodenhausen (B.S.) has been named the Lawyer Taylor Professor of Psychology and Marketing at Northwestern University. He lives in Chicago.

Michael Carroll, (B.S.; ’90 M.S.), Ph.D., is director of the Center for Regional Development at Bowling Green State University. He has been chosen to edit a new journal being published by the Regional Science Association International (RSAI). The RSAI, based in the United Kingdom, will launch Regional Science Policy and Practice in 2009. The international journal will focus on the application of regional science approaches to public policy, regional development, planning, and related fields. The new journal, to be issued through Blackwell Publishing, will contain papers and case studies demonstrating best practices, along with case studies and evaluations of significant regional policy and programs.

CLASS OF 1983
Robert Clements (M.Ed.) received a 2008 Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education Excellence in Teaching Award. An assistant professor of communication arts at Cedarville University, Clements is a member of the United Institute of Theatre Technology and Christians in the Arts. His scenic, lighting, and costume designs have been used on church, high school, and university stages, and he has received several local awards for his stage design and play direction.

Kim Vesey, (B.S.N.), RN, MS, CHPN, has been appointed general manager of VITAS Innovative Hospice Care/8’s program in Dayton, OH. Vesey brings 24 years of experience as a hospice nurse and administrator to her new role. Prior to joining VITAS, Vesey worked in the hospice field as a case manager, performance improvement nurse, compliance officer, hospice administrator, and divisional director of hospice programs for a hospice provider with 48 hospice programs. A resident of Beavercreek, OH, Vesey earned a master’s degree from Central Michigan University. She is vice chairperson of the Ohio Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (OHPCO), where she has served on the board of directors for four years and previously chaired its education committee.

Gary Workman (B.S.C.S.) is plant services manager for the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio, where he oversees security, information technology, fire protection, emergency management, and facility services.

CLASS OF 1984
Cindy Thomson (B.S.Ed.) writes full-time from her home in Pataskala, OH. Her new book, Celtic Wisdom: Treasures from Ireland, was released in the United Kingdom in November 2008 and is scheduled for release in the United States in September 2009. Her first novel, Brigid of Ireland, was published in 2006. Her biography (co-authored with her cousin, Scott Brown) on her rela-


CLASS OF 1985
Christopher Reid (B.A.) performs in Christopher, an all-male gospel trio. "Yes," from the trio’s 2008 release, The Journey, was a Billboard Music Top 50 Gospel Single for 20 consecutive weeks.

CLASS OF 1986
John Wilbur (B.A.) has earned certification as a certified fundraising executive (CFRE) from CFRE International. To earn certification, an applicant must work in a fundraising capacity for five years, attend professional conferences and workshops, and submit to a written exam. CFREs must also agree to uphold a code of ethics and accountability standards and certify every three years. Wilbur is a major gifts officer for LifePath Hospice. An Air Force veteran, Wilbur lives in Brandon, FL, with his wife, Jean, and sons, Jared and Michael.

CLASS OF 1987
Wynette Carter (B.S.) has been hired as the girl’s basketball coach at Springfield High School in Springfield, OH. Carter was inducted into Wright State’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.

CLASS OF 1988
Traci Carte (B.S.) is associate professor of Management Information Systems at the University of Oklahoma. She was named a 2007–08 Fulbright Scholar and traveled to Colombo, Sri Lanka, where she spent six months teaching at the Post Graduate Institute of Management and researched the impact of culture on emergent leadership in virtual teams. She is on the editorial board of MIS Quarterly and is treasurer for the OCIS division of the Academy of Management.

CLASS OF 1989
Ron Shumaker (B.S.B.) is executive director of the Dayton Heart Center.

Jeffrey Warman (B.A.) has been named executive creative director for Northlich, a branding and advertising agency in Cincinnati. Warman most recently served as Northlich’s ideation director. He previously worked as a documentary writer and producer for CBS and as a producer for ESPN. He was also a White House intern during the Clinton administration.

CLASS OF 1990
Gary Norman (B.A.) is the 2008 recipient of the Maryland State Bar Foundation Edward F. Shea, Jr., Award. He is also an American Marshall Memorial Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States. An attorney partnered with a guide dog named Langer, Norman served as the 2008 program chair of the American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys at its annual meeting, hosted in conjunction with the national convention of the American Council of the Blind, in Louisville, KY. Norman resides in Baltimore, MD.

CLASS OF 1991
Christopher Reid (B.A.) received the NAACP Image Award for outstanding literary work in the youth/teen category for his book, More Than Entertainers: An Inspirational Black Career Guide. The book exposes African American youth to a variety of career opportunities by featuring 35 black male and female professionals/skilled laborers from across the country, who share their personal insights and offer words of encouragement.
CLASS OF 2001
Rev. Nathaniel Colvin III (M.Ed.) and his wife, Pastor Nicole Colvin, are ministers at Bethel AME Church in Pittsburgh. Bethel, which is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal church west of the Allegheny Mountains, celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2008.

Karina Colon (B.S.Ed.) has been selected by the Kenan Fellows Program for Curriculum and Leadership Development at North Carolina State University as a Class of 2010 Kenan Fellow. She will engage in a two-year fellowship funded by the Goodnight Educational Foundation to develop innovative curricula for use in North Carolina classrooms. Colon is a fourth grade teacher at Glendale-Kenly Elementary School in Kenly, NC.

Jay Delaney (B.S.B.) produced, edited, and directed Not Your Typical Bigfoot Movie, a documentary on two amateur Bigfoot researchers in southern Ohio. Oscilloscope Pictures distributed the film, which premiered at the Two Boots Pioneer Theater in Manhattan in October 2008.

CLASS OF 2002
Michael Alvater (B.A.) passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered his oath during a special public session of the Supreme Court in November. Alvater is a graduate of The University of Akron School of Law.

Kristin Blackwell (B.A.) is an associate attorney in the Human Resources Client Service Department of Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP. Blackwell’s practice focuses on employment litigation, dispute resolution, and workers’ compensation. Blackwell is a 2007 graduate of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. She became the first person at Moritz to twice receive the Moritz Leadership Award, an award determined by members of the law school’s faculty and administration. Blackwell also studied at St. Anne’s College at Oxford University.

CLASS OF 2003
Andrew Groeber (B.S.) is national accounts coordinator for the Power Equipment Division of American Honda Motor Company in Atlanta.

Matt Massie (B.A.) is manager of career services at Sinclair Community College. He and his wife, Christina, own Club K-9 Doggy daycare Inc. and Canines to Families Pet Sitting in Centerville, OH. Massie received his M.B.A. from ITT Technical Institute in 2007 and will begin studying in 2009 for a Ph.D. in organizational leadership or higher education leadership.

CLASS OF 2005
Daniel Bartz (B.A.), a law student at the University of Oregon, is the first recipient of the Wade and Elice Marler Plymell Scholarship, a scholarship established for law students with disabilities.

John “Jack” Leopard (B.A.) ran the Chicago Triathlon to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. He is a sales representative for DePuy Mitek, a division of Johnson & Johnson.

CLASS OF 2006
Jay Wendt (B.S.) completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL. During the eight-week program, Wendt participated in a variety of training including classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

CLASS OF 2007
Garret Holleran (B.S.), a former Wright State baseball pitcher, signed a contract with the Northern League’s Gary SouthShore Railcats.

Annette Kaiser (B.A.) is a marketing account coordinator for Bandy Carroll Hellige, an Indianapolis advertising and public relations agency.

Wright State alumni receive 40 Under 40 awards
The Dayton Business Journal selected 10 Wright State graduates as winners of its 11th annual 40 Under 40 awards program. A panel of judges reviewed nominations from members of the business community and selected winners for the 2008 awards based on three main criteria—business leadership, community leadership, and career path.

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

Melissa Aldridge, Dayton Development Coalition (‘07 B.S.B.)

Ben Cutting, WorkflowOne (‘98 B.S.B.)

Chuck Edmonson, Fifth Third Bank (‘94 B.S.B.)

Dawn Huff, Battelle & Battelle LLP (‘95 B.S.B.)

Andrea Kunk, Peerless Technologies Corp. (‘04 B.S.B.; ’07 M.B.A.)

Jeff Lightner, Brower Insurance Agency (‘96 B.S.B.)

Tyrone Phillippi, LifePlan Financial Group Inc. (‘92 B.S.B.)

Susan Pion, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery (‘99 B.S.)

Diane Pleiman, Miami Valley Hospital (‘97 M.B.A.)

RoShawn Winburn, Merrill Lynch (‘97 B.S.B.)
Bob Grant named WSU Director of Athletics

Bob Grant took the reigns of the athletics department on July 1, 2008, as Wright State’s third director of athletics. Grant is no newcomer to the department or the university, having earned two degrees from WSU and working 15 years for the Raiders, honing his skills in every area of the department.

Since joining Wright State in 1992, Grant has been involved in nearly every aspect of the athletics department including fundraising and development, supervision of personnel and programs, recruitment of coaches, budget oversight, strategic planning, and marketing.

“Bob hit a home run with the search committee and he articulated a clear vision for our program,” said Dan Abrahamowicz, vice president for student affairs. “Additionally, his strong support from our student-athletes and our coaches and his outstanding community relations are very impressive. The university conducted a thorough national search and Bob Grant emerged as the best candidate. We are proud of Bob and very pleased he is our director of athletics.”

Initially hired to develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising plan for athletics, Grant cultivated the “Raider Club” annual giving program, the Raider auction, golf outings, fan trips, special events, and the department’s dealer car program.

“It has been a privilege to serve Wright State, our student-athletes, and coaches for the past 15 years,” Grant said. “This is a special moment for me in my professional life. I’m thrilled and very humbled by this opportunity and extremely grateful to Dr. Hopkins and Dr. Abrahamowicz.”

Paramount among Grant’s accomplishments has been the department’s success under his supervision in countless fundraising and development projects, such as The Platinum Seating Program, The Mills Player Complex, Alumni Soccer Field, The Schwarz Hall of Fame Lobby, Alumni Soccer Dugouts, and the Setzer Pavilion/Mills-Morgan Center.

Grant has spearheaded athletics department search committees that have hired more than a half-dozen coaches and administrators including, most recently, conference championship coaches Brad Brownell and Rob Cooper from men’s basketball and baseball, respectively.

In 2006 Grant initiated the athletics department’s first-ever strategic plan. This plan is serving as a short- and long-term roadmap to guide the department into the future. Grant also took over supervision and oversight for the department’s $8 million budget in 2006. Monitoring closely with the athletics’ business manager, Grant has worked with all head coaches on fiscal issues including budget planning, preparation, management, and evaluation.

Beginning in 1999, Grant took on sport supervision, closely overseeing individual teams on a day-to-day basis. Grant dealt directly with head coaches on all facets of their programs including scheduling, recruiting, academics, discipline, and annual evaluations. His experience in this area includes oversight of the swimming and diving, women’s soccer, and softball programs. Grant recently oversaw the men’s basketball, men’s soccer, golf, and baseball programs.

In 1997 Grant directed the development of all-new athletic logos, resulting in a significant increase in the university’s licensing revenue. He served on the university’s licensing committee from 1997 to 2005, oversaw the marketing and promotions area from 1997 to 2002, and directed the Hall of Fame voting/induction process from 1992 to 2002.

Among his professional highlights, Grant was a 1994 NCAA speaker/presenter at the annual NACDA conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and was awarded the 1998 Wright State President’s Award for Excellence in collaboration. He also graduated from The Sports Management Institute in January 2006.

Grant, a Dayton-area native, earned his M.B.A. in marketing from Wright State in June 2000 and is currently an adjunct instructor in the Raj Soin College of Business. He and his wife, Kim, have a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Braden. 

“This is a special moment for me in my professional life. I’m thrilled and very humbled by this opportunity.” —BOB GRANT
Wright State University has awarded a new six-year contract to men’s basketball coach Brad Brownell. The new deal signed by Brownell extends his contract with the university through the 2013–14 season.

Brownell, who has averaged more than 21 wins in his six years as a Division I head coach, has compiled a 44-20 record in two years with Wright State. During his six years, he has guided three teams to NCAA Tournaments, including the Raiders in 2007 when WSU posted a 23-10 record.

“Brad has done an outstanding job in a short period of time,” said WSU Director of Athletics Bob Grant. “His leadership and commitment to Wright State and our student-athletes have led to unparalleled prosperity on the court as well as in the classroom and in the community. His record of success ranks among the top coaches in the nation. I am certainly pleased to have him leading our program and I know our fans feel the same.”

Brownell, Horizon League co-Coach of the Year last season, has a 127-60 record as a head coach and returns the bulk of last year’s 21-10 team. The Raiders also welcome sophomore Duquesne transfer Scott Grote and junior college player Cory Cooperwood in addition to redshirt freshman Kyle Pressley. Junior guard Vaughn Duggins leads the list of returning players as he averaged just shy of 14 points per contest last year when he was recognized as a First Team All-Horizon League performer. Other starters returning include junior guard Todd Brown (12.8 ppg) and senior point guard Will Graham (3.6 apg).

“My family and I are grateful for the confidence and support shown by the university and we hope we can build on the success we have established,” Brownell said. “My staff and I will continue to work hard to make this a top program in the league.”

Since Brownell’s appointment on March 31, 2006, the Raiders have blossomed into one of the top teams of the Horizon League with great recruiting classes and stellar coaching. Brownell collected his 100th win against Milwaukee, has beaten nationally ranked Butler three times, and led the Raiders to the most road wins ever as a Division I team.

Additionally, Brownell was one of 15 finalists for the Hugh Durham Coach of the Year Award for mid-major programs in 2007. After his team won the 2007 Horizon League regular season and tournament, he was named the NABC District 10 Coach of the Year, which covers all Division I schools in Ohio and Indiana.

Prior to joining the Raiders, Brownell was head coach at UNC Wilmington, leading the Seahawk program to an unprecedented era of success. The Evansville, Indiana, native compiled a four-year head coaching record of 83-40 there along with two NCAA Tournament berths. UNCW posted a 25-8 mark his final season and won the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, beating Final Four participant George Mason University. The Seahawks then lost in overtime to George Washington 88-85 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. His four-year Colonial record was 61-22, which was the best during the period.

Brownell was twice named the CAA Coach of the Year (2003 and 2006) and twice the collegeinsider.com Coach of the Year. Foxsports.com also named him the Mid-Major Coach of the Year in 2006.

Brownell earned his bachelor’s degree from DePauw University in 1991 and completed his master’s degree at the University of Indianapolis in 1994.
2009 Wright State softball preview

COMING OFF OF BACK-TO-BACK Horizon League Tournament titles and appearances in the NCAA Tournament, the Wright State softball team, under fifth-year head coach Mike Larabee, looks to three-peat in 2009 with 11 returning letterwinners along with six newcomers.

Leading the list of returnees is junior shortstop Kristen Bradshaw, who was named First Team All-Horizon League in 2008 after batting .365 with 10 home runs and 65 runs batted in along with a team-best 16 stolen bases. Also back is junior outfielder Jamie Perkins, another First Team All-League performer who hit .379 with nine home runs, 30 RBI, and 14 doubles while tying for the team lead with 58 runs scored.

In the circle, junior Sharon Palma returns after going 18-11 with a 2.91 earned run average and 117 strikeouts last season. A Second Team All-League performer who hit .379 with nine home runs, 30 RBI, and 14 doubles while tying for the team lead with 58 runs scored.

Sophomore second baseman Justine Shilt was chosen to both the Second Team and to the All-Newcomer Team after hitting .293 with three home runs and 25 RBI in 2008. Joining Shilt and Palma on the All-Newcomer Team was sophomore third baseman Louie Haney, a .344 hitter last season. Haney was also selected to the All-Tournament Team along with sophomore outfielder Mollie Berry, who hit .275 with seven home runs and 20 RBI.

Also back for the Raiders in 2009 are juniors Briana Birl, Allison Cox, and Malerie Klingler, along with sophomores Ashleigh Jackson and Stephanie Leep.

Of the six newcomers, two have local ties as freshman outfielder Michelle Baker hails from Tipp City while junior pitcher Melanie Heyne is from Celina. Two other newcomers are from the state of Washington in freshman infielders China Frost and Katie Kine, while the other two, freshman catcher Lindsay Barrett and freshman catcher/outfielder Fe Brown, are from the Columbus area.

The Raiders will compete in five tournaments to start the year, beginning with the Country Inn and Suites Invitational, hosted by Bradley in Pekin, Illinois, February 7-8. Wright State will also compete in tournaments hosted by Kennesaw State, UNLV, Morehead State, and Winthrop before opening the home portion of its schedule on Thursday, March 19, with a doubleheader against Miami. The Horizon League Tournament is set for May 7-9 at Legends Field in Pendleton, Indiana, just outside of Indianapolis.

2009 Wright State baseball preview

THE WRIGHT STATE BASEBALL TEAM will enter the 2009 season with a bright outlook, returning four All-League performers and the bulk of their starting lineup from last season’s 30-23 squad. Head Coach Rob Cooper, who enters his fifth season at the helm of the Raiders, will look to the veterans to lead the Green and Gold through one of the toughest schedules in school history.

The Raiders will welcome back four All-League honorees from 2008, including starting pitcher Jon Durket, infielder R. J. Gundolff, designated hitter Jeff Mercer, and catcher Gerald Ogrinc. Durket posted a 7-2 record on the mound last season with two complete games. The left-hander tossed 75 innings, walking only 22 batters and striking out 56. Gundolff played at three different positions last season and batted .282 with 41 runs scored, while Mercer hit .345 with seven home runs and a team-high 53 RBI’s. Ogrinc was the most dangerous defender behind the plate in the league last season, pacing all catchers nationally with 11 pickoffs and throwing out a league best 22 of 57 base runners.

Also returning for the Green and Gold will be starting pitchers Alex Kaminsky (8-2, 3.98 ERA) and Rylan Ostrosky (3-3, 4.17 ERA). In the bullpen, the Raiders will have junior Greg Robinson (4-3, 3 saves), junior Jordan Wolfe (0-1 1 save), and sophomores Michael Meintel (1-3, 5 saves) and Lee Valencheck (0-0, 0 saves).

Returning in the field for Wright State will be two-year starter Aaron Fields who posted a .306 batting average with 20 RBI and 40 runs scored. Outfielder Casey McGrew will start his third season with WSU after boasting a .346 batting average and 27 RBI’s last season. Sam Mote, Kory Twede, Tony Scott, and Kyle Mossbarger also return.

In 2009, the Raiders will undertake the task of playing their first 14 games on the road before opening up their 25-game home schedule on March 13 versus Oakland. The schedule includes series with national contenders Texas A&M and Tulane, along with games against Kentucky, UNC Wilmington, and Kent State. WSU will also play a tough Horizon League schedule and games at 2008 NCAA national runner-up Georgia and Southeastern Conference foe Vanderbilt.
### 2009 Home Softball Schedule

**March**
- 19 Thurs. Miami (DH) 2:00
- 21 Sat. Cleveland State (DH) * 1:00
- 22 Sun. Cleveland State * 1:00
- 24 Tues. Eastern Michigan (DH) 2:00
- 28 Sat. Youngstown State * (DH) 1:00
- 29 Sun. Youngstown State * 1:00

**April**
- 8 Wed. Butler * (DH) 2:00
- 9 Thurs. Butler * 2:00
- 13 Mon. Dayton (DH) 3:00
- 15 Wed. Toledo (DH) 3:00
- 22 Wed. Rio Grande (DH) 2:00

**May**
- 2 Sat. UIC * (DH) 1:00
- 3 Sun. UIC * Noon

* Horizon League Games

### 2009 Home Baseball Schedule

**March**
- 13 Fri. Oakland 5:00
- 14 Sat. Eastern Michigan (DH) Noon
- 17 Tues. Miami 6:30
- 18 Wed. Xavier 6:30
- 20 Fri. Youngstown State * 6:30
- 21 Sat. Youngstown State (DH) * 1:00
- 27 Fri. Butler * 6:30
- 28 Sat. Butler (DH) * 1:00

**April**
- 3 Fri. Le Moyne 6:30
- 4 Sat. Le Moyne 1:00
- 5 Sun. Le Moyne 11:00
- 7 Tues. Cincinnati 6:30
- 24 Fri. UIC (DH) * 1:00
- 26 Sun. Valparaiso (DH) * 1:00
- 28 Tues. Urbana 6:30

**May**
- 5 Tues. Dayton 6:30
- 11 Mon. Toledo 6:30
- 15 Fri. Cleveland State * 6:30
- 16 Sat. Cleveland State (DH) * 1:00

* Horizon League Games

### 2009 Remaining Women’s Basketball Schedule

**February**
- 6 Fri. at Butler * 9:00
- 8 Sun. at Valparaiso * 2:30
- 12 Thurs. GREEN BAY * 7:00
- 14 Sat. MILWAUKEE * 4:30
- 19 Thurs. at Cleveland State * 7:00
- 21 Sat. at Youngstown State * TBA
- 28 Sat. at Detroit * 1:30

**March**
- 5 Thurs. LOYOLA * 7:00
- 7 Sat. UIC * 1:00
- 9 Mon. Horizon League First Round + TBA
- 11 Wed. Horizon League Quarterfinals # TBA
- 13 Fri. Horizon League Semifinals! TBA
- 15 Sun. Horizon League Championship! TBA

### 2008–09 Remaining Men’s Basketball Schedule

**February**
- 5 Thurs. VALPARAISO * 7:00
- 7 Sat. BUTLER * 7:00
- 10 Tues. at Loyola * 8:00
- 14 Sat. DETROIT * 7:00
- 18 Wed. at UIC * 8:00
- 21 Sat. BRACKET BUSTER TBA
- 26 Thurs. MILWAUKEE * 7:00

**March**
- 3 Tues. Horizon League First Round + TBA
- 6 Fri. Horizon League Quarterfinals # TBA
- 7 Sat. Horizon League Semifinals! TBA
- 10 Tues. Horizon League Championship! TBA

**HOME GAMES IN BOLD CAPS**
- All Times Eastern
- * Horizon League games
- + Hosted by Seventh & Eighth Seeds
- # Site of Regular Season Champ
- ! Highest Remaining Seed
Millie H. Waddell established a Wright State University faculty and staff giving campaign in 1978. Her legacy continues today as the Office of Annual Giving coordinates an organized campaign, now known as the Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign (CSIC), to invite faculty, staff, and retirees to commit their dollars to scholarships, programs, and research initiatives. There is a spirit of camaraderie on this campus united by the understanding that we lead by example. We believe that if we demonstrate our dedication to this campus with our own giving, it will inspire our alumni, friends, and community to invest in scholarship opportunities for our students.

The Office of Annual Giving responded to other staff members' requests for a divisional scholarship for students who support Advancement’s programs and initiatives through their employment. During the past two CSIC campaigns, donors began designating their dollars to the University Advancement Scholarship.

Katherine Gray ’11 was one of the first recipients of this new scholarship. Gray is a sophomore studying business management at Wright State. She started working in the Office of Development in 2007. As a development aide, she helped with projects ranging from writing thank-you notes to donors to coordinating details for special events. Her talent and meticulous attention to detail did not go unnoticed, and she was invited to apply for the University Advancement Scholarship. Gray embodied the spirit of the scholarship’s purpose—to recognize the hard work and contributions of a student affiliated with University Advancement.

The scholarship and work experience has had a lasting impact for this talented student. “Before I began working in the Office of Development at Wright State, not only did I not know where the Office of Development was located on the campus, but I was also unaware of what they did for students,” Gray said. “But now I know the importance of relationships and the donors who help this university grow and make a difference for thousands of students.”

Scholarships play a vital role in the success of students like Gray. As her scholarship reference wrote, “Katherine seems to appreciate the goodness of others and gaining greater understanding of her own expectations.” We have great expectations for Gray’s bright future. Her department colleagues were proud to support one of their very own students!

Katherine J. Gray
Raj Soin College of Business
Business Management major
University Advancement Scholarship recipient
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