

Wright State University  
**CORE Scholar**

---

Wright State University Magazine

Office of Marketing

---

Spring 2014

## Wright State University Magazine, Spring 2014

Office of Marketing, Wright State University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/wsu\\_magazine](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/wsu_magazine)



Part of the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Office of Marketing, Wright State University (2014). *Wright State University Magazine, Spring 2014*. .

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Marketing at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wright State University Magazine by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact [library-corescholar@wright.edu](mailto:library-corescholar@wright.edu).

# WRIGHT STATE

## UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 2  
SPRING 2014

### inside:

- shipwreck seeker 3
- wetlands warrior 6
- scuba school 9
- leadership legions 12
- empowered engineers 15

**just add water**  
wright state makes a splash

*Publisher and President of  
Wright State University*

**David R. Hopkins**

*Editor and  
Executive Director of Marketing  
Graphic Design and Illustration*

**Denise Robinow**

*Contributing Writers*

**Seth Bauguess, Andrew Call,  
Jim Hannah, Bob Mihalek,  
and Kim Patton**

*Editorial Assistance*

**Cory MacPherson, Ron Wukeson**

*Photography Editor*

**William Jones**

*Photography*

**Roberta Bowers, William Jones,  
and Chris Snyder**

*Digital Imaging Manipulation*

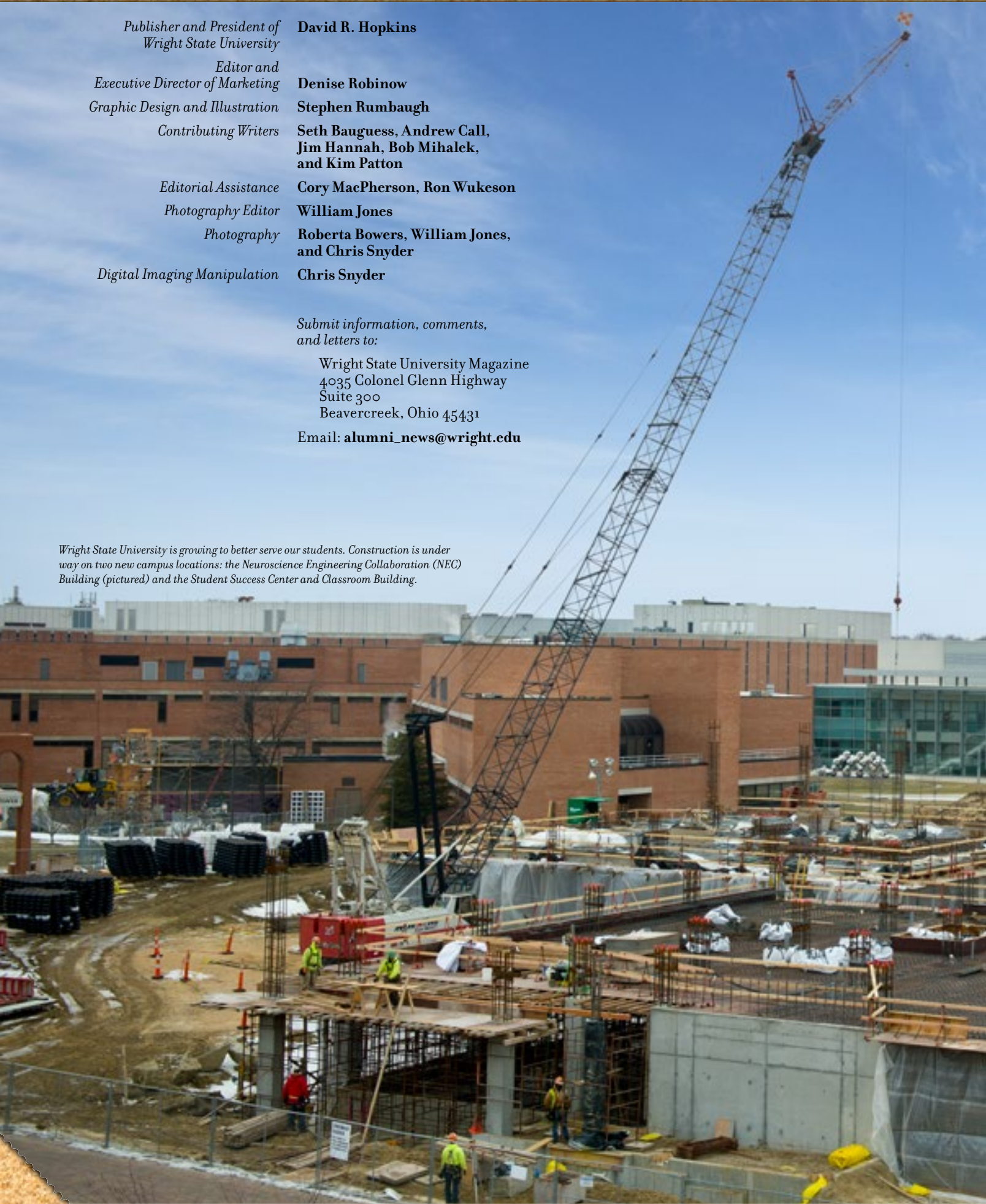
**Chris Snyder**

*Submit information, comments,  
and letters to:*

Wright State University Magazine  
4035 Colonel Glenn Highway  
Suite 300  
Beavercreek, Ohio 45431

Email: [alumni\\_news@wright.edu](mailto:alumni_news@wright.edu)

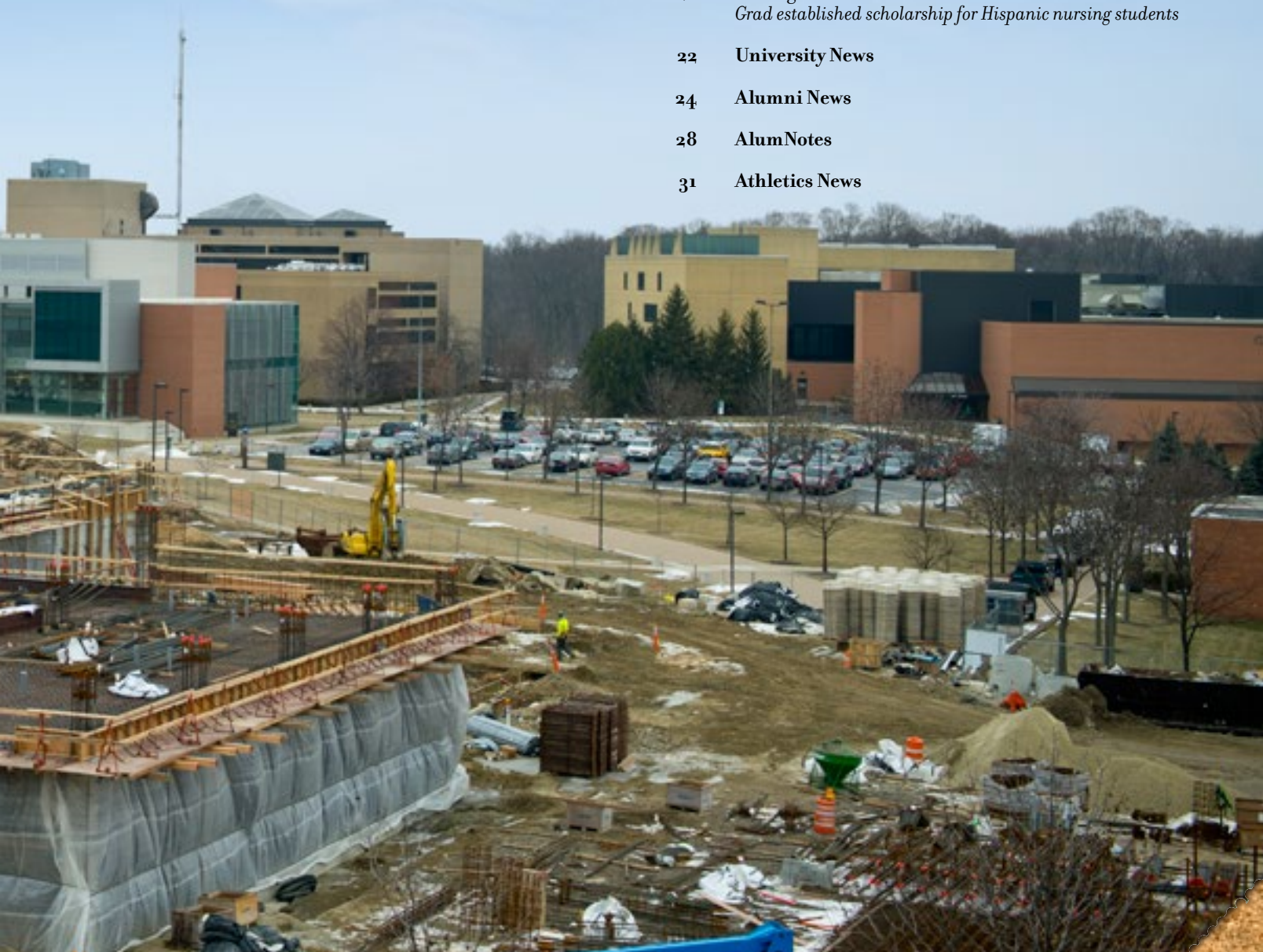
*Wright State University is growing to better serve our students. Construction is under way on two new campus locations: the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration (NEC) Building (pictured) and the Student Success Center and Classroom Building.*



---

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE  
IS PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR BY THE  
OFFICE OF MARKETING. DISTRIBUTION  
IS TO WRIGHT STATE ALUMNI, FACULTY,  
STAFF, AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

- 2 **From the President's Desk**
- 3 **Great Hunt**  
*Grad searches for famous shipwreck in the Great Lakes*
- 6 **Fen Yen**  
*Retired professor champions local wetlands*
- 9 **SCUBA Program Known for its Depth**  
*Wright State has trained more than 10,000 divers*
- 12 **Leading the Pack**  
*Raiders lead state and national organizations*
- 15 **In Demand**  
*Employers eagerly await Lake Campus engineers*
- 16 **Wright Hydroplanes**  
*Archive photos show early Wright brothers' watercraft*
- 18 **Building Bridges**  
*Tony Ortiz continues advocacy for Latino community*
- 19 **Rock Steady**  
*Geology student getting national attention*
- 20 **A Daughter's Love**  
*Grad established scholarship for Hispanic nursing students*
- 22 **University News**
- 24 **Alumni News**
- 28 **AlumNotes**
- 31 **Athletics News**





Welcome to this issue of *Wright State University Magazine*.

After one of the worst winters in history, I am so looking forward to the arrival of spring. It's one of my favorite seasons. I appreciate not only its beauty but what it represents—a new beginning. As we await the rebirth that comes with spring, it seems appropriate that we focus our spring issue on another element of nature that represents the continuous cycle of life: water.

Leonardo da Vinci once said, “When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come.” In many ways, water reflects our own journeys through life. Just as one body of water flows into another, the currents and tides of time move us along the many streams of our lives.

In this issue, we examine how water—one of our planet's most precious resources—ebbs and flows through the Wright State community. Come with us as the tide recedes back in time to the beginning of Wright State's scuba program. Dive into the depths of Lake Michigan, where one of our graduates searches for a long-lost ship. And sink into some local wetlands that have been preserved with the help of a retired biology professor.

To quote renowned oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, “We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.” I hope this issue reminds you how important water is to each of us—for our history, our recreation, and our survival.

Until our next issue...

**Warmest regards from campus,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Hopkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DAVID R. HOPKINS  
PRESIDENT  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

# great hunt

wright state alumnus steve libert  
may be closing in on locating  
the long-lost ship the *griffin*

By BOB MIHALEK



*This page: A diver with Great Lakes Exploration Group surveys a beam at the bottom of Lake Michigan that Steve Libert believes is from the Griffin.*

*Pages 4 and 5: Kathie ('78) and Steve Libert ('81), inset; the Great Lakes Exploration Group heading out on Lake Michigan during a diving expedition in June 2013.*

PHOTOS COURTESY GREAT LAKES EXPLORATION GROUP LLC.



STEVE LIBERT HAS SPENT THE LAST 30 YEARS SEARCHING FOR HIS HOLY GRAIL: the *Griffin*, the flagship of French explorer La Salle that sank in the Great Lakes in the 17th century.

After decades of research, thousands of dives, and years of legal wrangling, the Wright State

University alumnus thinks he is close to finding the ship.

Last summer, Libert—who along with his wife, Kathie, operates the Great Lakes Exploration Group—led an expedition of divers and archeologists in northern Lake Michigan, where he believes the *Griffin* sank.

While evidence found during the expedition has so far been inconclusive, Libert is convinced he's found part of the *Griffin*.

Libert effuses passion when talking about La Salle, the *Griffin*, and history. His search is driven by the ship's place in history and the mystery surrounding its disappearance. It's why he calls the *Griffin* the "Holy Grail of the Great Lakes."

"If you think of the importance of this ship and what it would take to find it—it was the first deck vessel to sink in the Great Lakes," he said.

Libert's interest in underwater exploration and shipwrecks isn't limited to the *Griffin*. He has consulted on the *Titanic*, the search for General Tomoyuki Yamashita's hidden treasure from World War II, and the recovery of the Confederate submarine *CSS Hunley*.

The *Griffin*, or *Le Griffon* as it is called in French, was constructed by René-Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle on the Niagara River near Niagara Falls. La Salle and a crew of 32 set out on the *Griffin* in 1679, sailing through Lakes Erie and Huron, stopping at Washington Island near the entrance to

Green Bay on western Lake Michigan.

La Salle and most of the crew disembarked and continued south by canoe. He sent the *Griffin*, with a crew of six and a load of furs, back east for more supplies in September 1679. The ship was never seen again.

Searching for a passage to China and Japan, La Salle eventually sailed the Mississippi, claiming for France much of the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi River basin. A portion of these lands would become part of the Louisiana Purchase.

Noeleen McIlvenna, associate professor of history at Wright State University, said La Salle occupies an important part of the history of both the U.S. and Canada, playing a huge role in creating the lucrative French-Algonquian fur trade from 1666 to 1687.

"His alliances with many groups of American Indians were founded on treating them respectfully as equal business partners," she said. "Because of his willingness to learn other languages and cultures, Indians helped him map routes and establish trading posts throughout the Great Lakes, around the Midwest, and down the Mississippi to Louisiana. He stands out from the English settlers as a reminder of the potential for a racially tolerant America."

Libert fondly recalls the day he first learned of La Salle and the *Griffin*.

He was in eighth-grade history class in Huber Heights, Ohio, near Wright State. His teacher, Mr. Kelly, was lecturing about early European explorations of the New World. Libert was smitten by the tale of the *Griffin* and La Salle's adventures in the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi.

As he walked around the classroom, Libert recalled, his teacher put his right hand on Libert's left shoulder and said, "Who knows? Maybe somebody in this class will find it someday."

This sparked something in the young Libert. Caught up in the "thrill of adventure," he grew enthralled with the *Griffin*. "What kid doesn't think about a ship and treasure?" he asked.

He initially went to Ohio State to play football, and after injuries cut his playing days short, he left Columbus and enrolled in Wright State. He worked during the day and took classes at night. Libert never lost his adventurous spirit. He learned to fly and to dive underwater.

After graduating from Wright State in 1981 with a B.A. in political science, Libert worked for the Defense Mapping Agency, which today is the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. He remained at the agency for 25 years as an intelligence analyst until he retired in 2013 so he could focus on the *Griffin* project. He and Kathie, who graduated from Wright State in 1978 with a B.F.A. in art, moved to northern Michigan.

He started narrowing in on what he thought was the location of the *Griffin* as he searched northern Michigan with friends.

After five years, Libert discovered a beam sticking straight out of the bottom of the lake while diving in 2001. "When I

found it I knew it was a bowsprit," he said. "There's no question about it."

Furthermore, Libert thought the beam could be the *Griffin's* bowsprit, a pole extending from a vessel's prow.

Years of legal battle ensued between Libert and the state of Michigan about ownership of the find. Eventually, France intervened, claiming that the *Griffin* belongs to France because King Louis XIV financed La Salle's explorations.

The parties reached a breakthrough agreement several years ago. It acknowledged France's ownership of the vessel and gave Libert's Great Lakes Exploration Group permission to continue inspecting the site.

In June 2013, the exploration group and three French archaeologists spent a week on Lake Michigan examining the beam and searching for the vessel.

Libert had hoped that the ship's remains would be buried in the mud beneath the bowsprit, but divers who excavated the lake bottom found nothing but sediment and zebra mussels below it.

Libert's team plans to resume searching northern Lake Michigan in the spring of 2014 to locate the *Griffin*.

Since it was located, the beam has undergone a number of tests. Carbon testing on wood samples have not pinpointed the exact age of the beam, instead concluding it could be anywhere

from 50 to 350 years old. A CT scan was conducted on the timber at a Michigan hospital to try to determine its age by obtaining a tree ring image. Unfortunately, the scan was inconclusive.

The French experts who participated in the expedition conducted an archaeological analysis of the piece. While they could not determine if the beam was part of the *Griffin*, they said the timber was consistent with a bowsprit from the 17th century. Their report also found that a portion of the artifact had likely been buried "in the sediment of the lake a long time, for at least one hundred years and perhaps even several hundred years."

Some researchers, including experts with the state of Michigan, dispute that the finding could be from the *Griffin*, contending that it is instead part of a pound net stake, an underwater fishing apparatus used in the Great Lakes in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

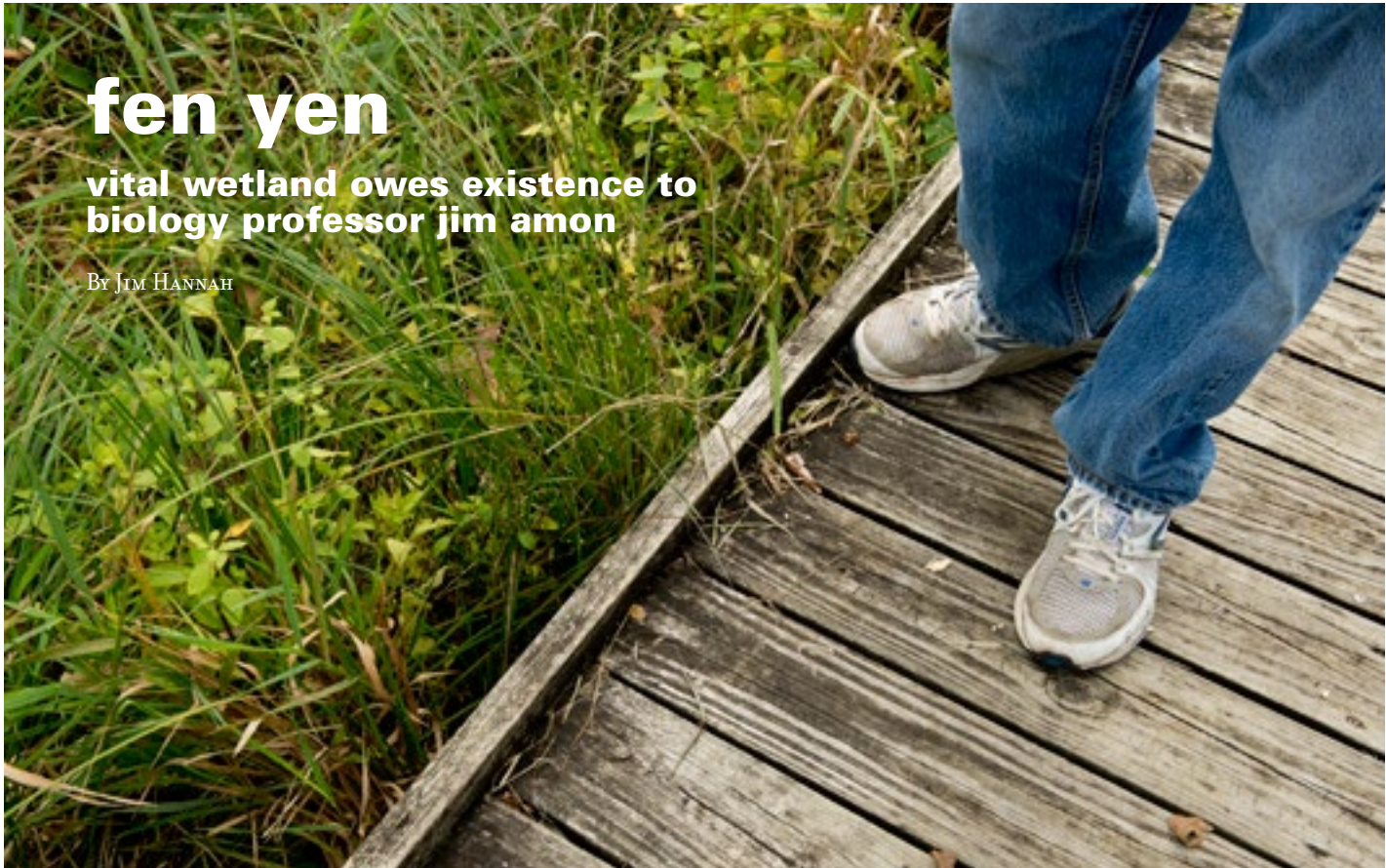
Libert remains convinced the piece is the bowsprit of the *Griffin* and is encouraged by the French report.

"When you start adding up all the pieces it's obvious," he said. "It can only belong to one vessel and that's the *Griffin*. No other vessel sailed that area at that time and they didn't have that kind of construction, at least not documented."

Visit [greatlakesexploration.org](http://greatlakesexploration.org) to read more about the search for the *Griffin*. **W**







## fen yen

**vital wetland owes existence to biology professor jim amon**

By JIM HANNAH

THE BOARDWALK SPONGES DOWN INTO MARSHY GROUND under the weight of the nature walkers. Cattails sway, woodpeckers peck, and colorful insects and plants paint the landscape.

Jim Amon is leading the way. The retired Wright State University biology professor has spent the past 25 years of his life helping preserve and restore the Beaver Creek Wetlands—2,000 acres of nature salad that is home to everything from the yellow warbler to the spotted turtle to the blue-leaved willow.

“By Yellowstone standards, it’s nothing; but in an urban area like this, it’s huge,” said Amon.

How huge?

Wetlands are rare, existing only in the right geologic settings. And nearly 90 percent of the wetlands that once freckled Ohio are gone, most of them drained so the land could be farmed.

“It’s something you just can’t find in a lot of other places in the world,” Amon said. “And I don’t think anybody else in the world has a resource like we do this close to a major educational institution.”

The 10-mile-long wetland is a five-minute drive from Wright State. Students use it for research projects and have served as volunteers to help in its restoration. One intern cleaned and planted seeds for 6,000 new wetland plants. Several students have set up stations to monitor water levels and water quality.

In September, the 70-year-old Amon was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Partners for the Environment, whose mission is to protect, restore, preserve, and promote the resources of the Great Miami River and Miami River Watersheds in an 18-county region.

Amon led efforts to purchase wetland acreage and restore it; lobbied for state, federal, and local resources; and helped install boardwalks to make the wetlands accessible to the public. He also grew plants for replanting in the wetland and

**Nearly 90% of the wetlands that once freckled Ohio are gone, most of them drained so the land could be farmed.**

recruited students and other volunteers to control invasive plants, inventory bird populations, and install interpretive signage. Amon estimates he has attended hundreds of late-night zoning meetings over the past 25 years.

“Dr. Amon has devoted his time, expertise, energy, and continuous commitment to the wetlands,” said David Nolin, director of conservation for Five Rivers MetroParks.

Amon’s passion for nature sprang from growing up on a farm in southwest Ohio near Batavia, where he would hike all over the county and explore the woods.

“We had two creeks running through the property,” he recalled. “I would occasionally dam them up and make little wetlands and flood the road. My mom would say, ‘Get down here and clear out that dam.’”

Amon obtained his bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Cincinnati and his master’s and Ph.D. in

marine biology from William & Mary.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, stationed at the Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah from 1968 to 1970.

“I worked on biological warfare agents,” he said. “That gave me some experience in things like food-borne diseases.”

Amon arrived at Wright State in 1974 to teach marine biology. He later developed the microbiology and food microbiology courses. He is currently a retired professor, but still teaches a wetlands biology course and does some guest lectures.

Amon discovered the wetland shortly after he and his wife moved into the area from Virginia. Amon was thrilled. He had just finished working in the Chesapeake Bay wetlands, one of the largest in the world.

He became involved with preserving and restoring the Beaver Creek Wetlands in 1988 as part of a group of concerned citizens.

“These were people who weren’t just out on a lark; they were pretty serious about this,” Amon said. “They understood how important this wetland was and wanted to do whatever they could do to preserve it.”

With his scientific technical background, Amon helped lend credibility to what would become the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association, a group that counted among its members officials from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nature Conservancy.

“One of the most gratifying things about working with the Beaver Creek Wetlands is working with people of a like mind who are as dedicated as they are,” Amon said.

Called the kidneys of the earth, wetlands filter and clean groundwater. For example, wetlands can turn what could be dangerous levels of nitrates from farm-runoff fertilizer into nitrogen that



is harmlessly released into the air. As part of a research project, Amon created a wetland at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base that eliminated solvents that had contaminated groundwater.

Wetlands also modify the surrounding air temperature, keeping it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. They also serve as nature preserves for wildlife and endangered plants.

“We have close to 500 species of plants out there; that’s like a tropical rain forest,” Amon said. “It’s so difficult to find anyplace that has that much diversity. Most of the things that are endangered that still exist are in wetlands because those are the last refuges.”

The largest wetlands in the world are the Amazon River basin and the west Siberian plain.

The Beaver Creek Wetlands is actually a fen, which is a wetland fed by groundwater. The groundwater at Beaver Creek flows through limestone, delivering minerals that keep the pH of the fen stable and enable it to help protect the purity of the underground aquifer.

To restore the wetland, Amon and volunteers installed some low dams, blocked drainage ditches, and blocked or removed terra cotta field drainage tiles, enabling the groundwater to rise to the surface.

The association also negotiated buffer zones between the wetlands and nearby housing developments. There is even a ban on lights that shine into the wetland.

In addition, it was decided to install boardwalks because it was difficult to wade into the wetland, and the waders were making paths that were taken over by invasive plants. So the association launched a fundraising campaign and bought materials for two boardwalks, the largest of which is about a mile long and loops back on itself through the tangle of plant life.

“We don’t want to love the wetland to death, but we need to get the public out to see it,” Amon said. “They have to be able to see what they preserved, and it’s worth seeing.”

An estimated 15,000 people use the boardwalk at the wheelchair-accessible Siebenthaler Fen, on Fairgrounds Roads in Beavercreek, each year.

Each May, the wetland hosts the Audubon Birdathon, a fundraising event in which participants attempt to identify as many species as possible. And in July, there is a butterfly watch. A few years ago, two Monarch butterflies tagged by the international monarch conservation project Monarch Watch were spotted in the wetland and their migration later tracked to Mexico.

“There is a lot of cool stuff going on,” Amon said.

Visit [beavercreekwetlands.org](http://beavercreekwetlands.org) to learn more about the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. **W**



# scuba program known for its depth

a wright state program celebrates its 40th birthday

By SETH BAUGUESS



A WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM THAT ROUTINELY DUMPS STUDENTS IN FREEZING WATERS, has incorporated the use of former Navy SEALs, and is known in such faraway places as the Polynesian island nation of Tonga, is about to celebrate its 40th birthday.

The scuba program at Wright State has educated over 10,000 students since 1974. As far as Serbia and Japan, the program with no local oceanic coastline is known as one of the best places in the world to receive diving instruction. The chief dive-training educator for the Dayton region, it's responsible for educating many of the forensic divers in the area and sends engineering, biology, and geology students out into the job market with game-changing skills.

Started by a man recently inducted into the Diving Industry Hall of Fame, it has pioneered safety protocols and procedures, and famously sent college students to the depths of freezing, zero-visibility rivers, lakes, and gravel pits all over North America.

Two prominent dive instructors and faculty members can lay claim to the program's undeniable success and safety record—no Wright State student has ever been injured during scuba instruction. The first is program creator Dan Orr. The second is current scuba program coordinator Regina Bier.

## Orr's in the water

Dan Orr grew up in South Florida and often dove for shells and treasures with his brother at his grandparent's home in the Florida Keys. An expert recreational diver at a young age, he moved to the Miami Valley in the '60s and came to Wright State at the end of the decade to study biology.

Orr finished a bachelor's degree in '73 and began graduate school the next year. By then, he'd been teaching diving in southwest Ohio for a while as a scuba instructor in West Carrollton, at a scuba club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and for the Dayton YMCA. When he heard Wright State was going to build a pool, he was convinced a new scuba program should follow.

Though he was not the first choice to lead the program, it didn't take long for Orr—whose persistence to help in any way made him impossible to ignore—to be tasked with shaping the program. Orr was given carte blanche to develop the program the best way he saw fit.

"I'd been teaching a while at that point and I just felt that teaching the minimum standards was not enough," said Orr on the phone from his home in Idaho. "I wanted people to be able to use the skills for a career or expert recreational use."

Orr began crafting a program for divers based in the Midwest who would likely do most of their diving in the region, too. The entry-level class utilized the Wright State pool for their confined water training before going to the open water to complete requirements for certification. Subsequent classes rarely occurred anywhere but in the field. Students dove in ponds, lakes, and rivers all over the area. Open water dives in the winter months were common.

"If we were going to teach a student a skill, we wanted to teach them to do that skill in any condition, without exception," said Orr. Word was getting out that a fantastic program was being built. Soon Orr's staff included former Navy divers and even former SEALs.

Students who worked their way up





*Left: Dan Orr, creator of the Wright State scuba program and member of the Diving Industry Hall of Fame, is as well known in the diving community as Jacques Cousteau.*

*Below top: Wright State diving students pose for a photo at one of the many field diving sites in the Dayton area they frequented during their instruction.*

*Below bottom: Chris Buck, left, and Ken Charpie, forensic divers with Wright State University, were part of the search Friday, Sept. 27, 2013, for the remains of Erica Baker.*



PHOTO: DAYTON DAILY NEWS / JIM NOELKER

to the advanced research and diving course—a course designed for students to apply to their careers—would tackle five diving-related projects each summer. Projects centering on environmental and aquatic ecology, deep diving, and decompression diving led students across the country. During an archeological dive project, students dove on a shipwreck in Canada and were tasked with salvaging both small objects, as well as objects weighing up to a ton. The marine biology project took students to the Gulf of Mexico.

After working with the university for 20 years, Orr began working with the fledgling Divers Alert Network (DAN). As the DAN regional coordinator and instructor, Orr designed industry-standard safety classes, protocols, and programs. Orr began at DAN as a volunteer and retired decades later as the president. Last year he was inducted into the Diving Industry Hall of Fame, where he joined world-famous underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, among many others.

### A legacy upheld

While teaching scuba at Wright State, Orr came across a dedicated and eager young diving student named Regina Bier.

Bier's father was an avid diver in the Dayton area in the '50s, when the sport was at its recreational infancy. Her father did some diving for local law enforcement and even the FBI. His best friend and dive partner was Ray Tussey, who later became one of the founding instructors with NAUI, the National Association of Underwater Instructors. One of Tussey's early students was Orr.

"I can remember hearing my father's stories and seeing his diving gear hanging on our garage wall and thinking 'I just want to dive,'" said Bier, adjunct faculty and detective with the Kettering Police Department. "I was just hell-bent on learning how. I came to Wright State, saw it had a program, and thought, 'this is my chance.'"

Bier first trained to become an excellent swimmer, and then enthusiastically studied under Orr to become an expert diver.

Orr's commitment to safety and commanding presence only solidified Bier's interest in finding a way to incorporate diving into her career. After graduation, she began working in law enforcement.

A few years later, after Orr had moved on, Bier picked up the pieces of a program that had slipped in quality but was not dead in the water. She vowed to meet the standards her mentor had established before her.

"He left some really big shoes to fill," said Bier, who was inducted into the Women Diver Hall of Fame in 2011 and is a NAUI-certified course director—the highest level of certification the association gives to recreational diving teachers.

The first thing she did was re-establish a rock-solid basic scuba-diving class again. Her goal was to return the program to a state in which students could go from beginner, to master diver, to instructor. Soon the numbers were back up, and about 75 percent of students from the beginner class were moving on to advanced classes.

The 25 percent that just want to learn the sport take with them a skill and experiences that change their lives. "For those of us not looking to make a career in diving, there's still a lot to

experience as a recreational diver—it's a fun, relaxing sport that's added a new dimension to my life," said Tiffany Fridley, who's taken the basic open water class and the advanced diver class and is in the master diver class this spring.

Those same advanced classes have also been training the forensic divers the Miami Valley has largely relied on for the last two decades. The need for search and recovery evidentiary dives is not great enough in the area that any one police or fire department can afford to keep a team on board. Bier has often been the only game in town. On nearly all of the dives she's done, she's loaded her team with Raiders.

"When I need divers to assist me with evidence diving, since I know they've been trained and I know their certifications are current and they're in the water regularly right now, it only makes sense," said Bier.

In fact during a recent dive of a Montgomery County gravel pit for the infamous Erica Baker cold case, every diver was a current or former scuba student at Wright State. Baker was a nine-year-old-girl who disappeared from her Kettering neighborhood in 1999 and has never been found. Evidence has long pointed to her body being disposed of in a local body of water.

"In a dive like that, there's zero visibility. Everything in that type of search is done with touch and feel and it takes hours underwater," said Bier. "Everything they can do where they can see, I want my students to be able to do just as well when they can't see."

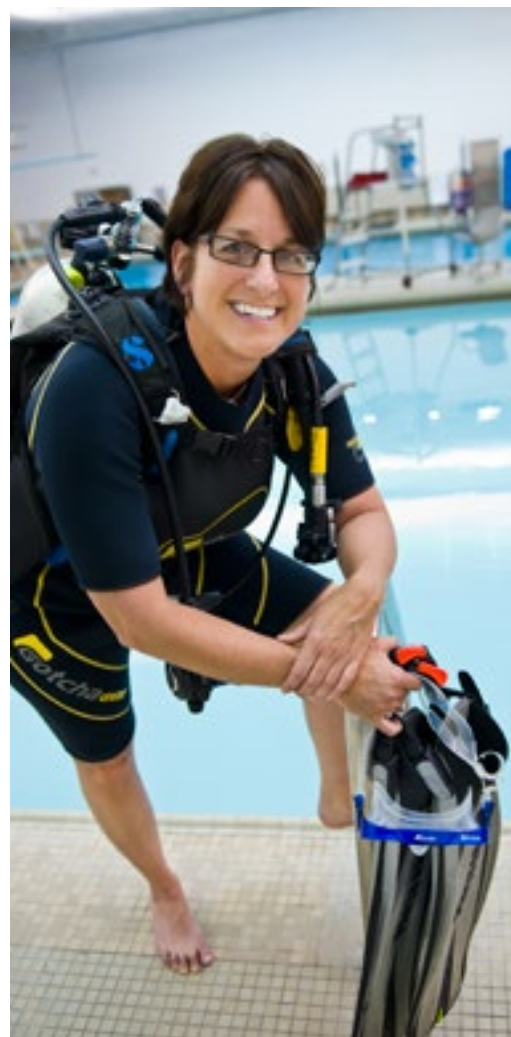
Today she teaches all levels of scuba at Wright State and draws students interested in careers in engineering, biology, marine biology, geology, oceanography, and public safety. One student was in the first internship class at the Newport Aquarium in northern Kentucky and is now a dive safety officer there. Another just left the program to go to commercial diving school to

prepare for a high-tech career of deep oceanic dives supporting oilrigs and other nautical applications. Chris Buck, a certified divemaster who worked with Bier on the recent Baker search, hopes to incorporate his diving skills into a career in emergency planning.

"These forensic dives often mean searching with our hands the entire time," said Buck. "Imagine that you have thick gloves on, are blindfolded, and are trying to distinguish between a stick and bone."

Bier uses stress training, zero visibility training, entanglement training, and search training techniques to prepare students for whatever their dive futures may offer.

"They're learning to handle not only their best day of diving, but I teach them how to handle their worst day," said Bier. "That legacy began with Dan Orr, and I strive to maintain that every day." **W**



*Right, top: Wright State scuba program coordinator Regina Bier is also a detective with the Kettering Police Department.*

*Right, bottom: Wright State diving interns pose for a photo in the tank with a sea turtle at the Newport Aquarium in Kentucky.*

# LEADERS



*Left to right: Simone Polk, Spencer Brannon, David R. Hopkins, Dan Krane, and Tony Ortiz*

# leading the pack

## wright state faculty, staff, and students hold top national, state leadership positions

By JIM HANNAH

LEADERS ARE SPECIAL PEOPLE. They are usually intelligent and charismatic with vision and values. People naturally just want to follow them.

Wright State University is teeming with such leaders. They hold high national and state positions and populate influential organizations in education, science, labor, health, athletics, and the arts.

**David R. Hopkins**, president of Wright State University, is chair of the **Inter-University Council of Ohio**, member of the **Higher Education Capital Funding Commission of Ohio**, and serves on the **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Division I, Executive Committee and Board of Directors**. He is also chair of the **Wright Brothers Institute**, vice chair of the **Advanced Technical Intelligence Center**, and co-chair of the **Ohio Board of Regents Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council**.

**Dan Krane**, professor of biology, is chair of the **Ohio Faculty Council**. He represents the faculty at Ohio's 13 public, four-year universities when he speaks to the chancellor, the Board of Regents, and state legislatures. The council passes resolutions on matters before the Ohio House and Senate and coordinates activities between universities on curricular issues such as the transition from quarters to semesters.

**Tony Ortiz**, associate vice president for Latino affairs, is commissioner on the **Ohio**

### **Commission of Hispanic/Latino Affairs.**

The commission advises the governor, General Assembly, and state agencies on matters affecting Hispanic Ohioans by issuing reports, proposing programs, commenting on legislation, and conducting policy-related research. Its mission is to connect the diverse Latino communities across the state and to build the capacity of Latino community organizations. Ortiz is also the state vice president for the **Elderly-League of United Latin American Citizens**, which works to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.

### **Rudy Fichtenbaum**, professor of economics, is president of the **American Association of University Professors**.

The mission of the AAUP, which represents about 47,000 professors and other academics, is to advance academic freedom and shared governance; to define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education; to promote the economic security of faculty, academic professionals, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and all those engaged in teaching and research in higher education; to help the higher education community organize to make its goals a reality; and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good. Founded in 1915, the AAUP has helped to shape American higher

education by developing the standards and procedures that maintain quality in education and academic freedom in this country's colleges and universities. Fichtenbaum has authored more than 45 articles and book chapters on topics such as discrimination, income distribution, and the impact of unions on wages and benefits.

**Spencer Brannon**, a senior majoring in political science and economics, is chairman of the **Ohio Student Government Association**, one of the nation's largest entirely student-led intercollegiate organizations. It represents the views and interests of the students and student governments of institutions of higher education in Ohio. "It is deeply humbling to serve as the face and voice of an organization that represents over half a million students to government leaders from the Board of Regents to the U.S. Department of Education and to know that the work I do on their behalf is making their student experiences—and their lives—that much easier."

**Simone Polk**, assistant vice president for student services, serves on the **Ohio Reach Advisory Board**. Former foster youth are a severely underrepresented, underserved, and undersupported population in higher education institutions. Ohio Reach works to improve the post-secondary success of foster care youth and alumni through advocacy, leadership, networking, and empowerment.



## WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Wright State faculty and staff members lead or serve on a wide array of national and state-level panels. Here is a sampling of Raiders leading organizations in medicine, science, the arts, athletics, and more.



**Sangeeta Agrawal**, associate professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Gastroenterology, is chair of the Education Committee of the Ohio Gastroenterology Society.



**Dennis Andersh**, chief operating officer of the Wright State Applied Research Corp., is secretary of the Dayton chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association.



**Thomas L. Brown**, a professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology, serves on the National Institutes of Health/NICHD-Pregnancy & Neonatology Study Section.



**Carl F. Brun**, professor of social work and chair of the Department of Social Work, has been appointed by Gov. John Kasich to serve on the Board of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board and serves as a national site visitor for the national Council on Social Work Education.



**Bob Grant**, director of athletics, is chair of the NCAA Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet.



**Paul Hershberger**, professor of family medicine, is secretary/treasurer of the American Board of Clinical Health Psychology.



**Shelley Jagow**, professor of music, is Ohio chairperson for the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors.



**R. Michael Johnson**, professor and chief of plastic surgery, is vice president of the Ohio Valley Plastic Surgery Society.



**Sharon Lynette Jones**, a professor and director of African and African American Studies, is president of the Langston Hughes Society.



**Dan Kirkpatrick**, clinical instructor, is president of the Ohio Nurses Association and mayor of Fairborn, Ohio.



**Paul G. Koles**, associate professor of pathology and surgery, serves on the pathology and genetics item-writing committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners.



**Anil Krishnamurthy**, associate professor of orthopedic surgery, is chair of the Orthopedic Surgical Advisory Board.



**Gary LeRoy**, associate dean for student affairs and admissions and associate professor of family medicine at the Boonshoft School of Medicine, serves on the Primary Care Medical Student Scholarship Selection Committee for Ohio.



**Catherine A. Marco**, professor of emergency medicine, serves on the board of directors for the American Board of Emergency Medicine and on the ethics committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians.



**Victor McCarley**, associate professor of psychology at the School of Professional Psychology, is president of the State Board of Psychology-Ohio.



**Mary C. McCarthy**, professor of surgery, serves on the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons General.



**Gerald Noble**, director of percussion, is Ohio chairperson for the Percussive Arts Society.



**Cynthia Olsen**, professor of family medicine, is president of the Ohio Geriatric Society.



**Gary M. Onady**, professor of internal medicine and pediatrics, is a site reviewer for the Cystic Fibrosis Center Committee.



**Randall Paul**, chair of the Department of Music, is Ohio chairperson for the International Clarinet Society.



**Roderick Perry**, deputy director of athletics, serves on the NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee and the NCAA Division I Legislative Council.



**Denise Porter**, director of business operations for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is president-elect of the Association of Managers of Gynecology & Obstetrics.



**Elisabeth Righter**, associate professor, is chair of the Conference on Practice Improvement of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.



**Richard Simman**, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology, is president and chair of the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery and editor-in-chief of *The Journal of the American College of Clinical Wound Specialists*.



**Valerie Stoker**, associate professor of religion, is co-chair of the Religion in South Asia Steering Committee of the American Academy of Religion.



**Julian Trevino**, a professor and chair of dermatology, is a trustee for the Ohio Dermatological Association and Ohio Dermatological Foundation.



**Dawn Wooley**, associate professor of virology, serves on the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, which advises the director of the National Institutes of Health.

## in demand

### lake campus engineering students can't graduate fast enough

By SETH BAUGUESS

THE FIRST CLASS OF WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY—LAKE CAMPUS ENGINEERING STUDENTS won't have much time to relax after graduation. Each student from the rapidly growing program who wants full-time engineering work already has a job lined up and waiting. Some have already been working full time.

Three will go to work for Crown Equipment, which makes powered industrial forklift trucks. One has been offered a full-time position with Coldwater Machine Company. They build machines for manufacturing operations. Another is already working for New Bremen Machine and Tool. Setex, which makes parts for the front seats of automobiles, hired one. And the seventh wants to focus on engineering research and plans to pursue a master's and likely a Ph.D. in engineering at the Dayton Campus.

This development is not surprising to those who are familiar with the robust advanced manufacturing engineering segment in Mercer and Auglaize counties and the rocket-like trajectory of this still-fledgling program.

Currently, there are 128 students in the program including seven seniors and there is a relentless demand for more.

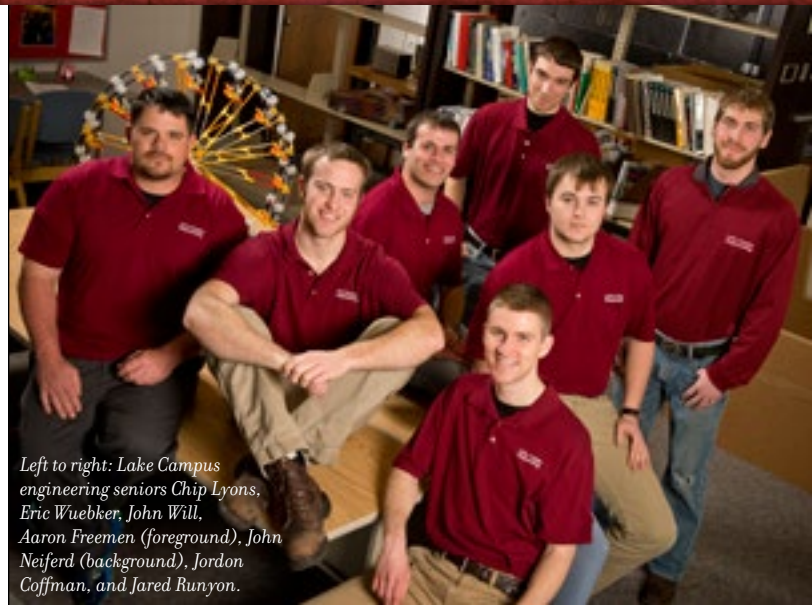
Bonnie Mathies, dean of the Lake Campus, attributes the rapid growth of the program to the high demand for skilled engineers in northeast Ohio and the program's unique blend of theoretical and applied learning. The program focuses on four goals:

1. Every student participates in a co-op or internship
2. Every student gets experiential learning
3. International educational opportunities are available
4. Senior design projects are in line with industry standards

"Any student who wants a paid co-op or internship can get one. The demand for our students from local industry seems insatiable," said Mathies. It's not just the seniors. Nearly all of the junior class has a co-op or internship and sophomores are getting them too.

"The interest is phenomenal. Local manufacturers all wish they could fast-forward and get these students now," said Jared Ebbing, Mercer County economic development director.

"There's about 40 major businesses up here," said Dennis Hance, lecturer and assistant director of Lake Campus engineering programs. "There's billions of dollars in annual sales revenue in



Left to right: Lake Campus engineering seniors Chip Lyons, Eric Wuebker, John Will, Aaron Freeman (foreground), John Neiferd (background), Jordon Coffman, and Jared Runyon.

high-tech products each year, and they need highly trained people with really good work habits, and that's what we are producing."

The students and their persistent work ethic is also driving the success of the engineering program.

"They're farming students; they're small-town students. Some of our students have worked all through high school and at home," said Hance. "Now they're in college and they've added some technical abilities and they've sustained that work ethic. You tie the two together and they are good employees."

Mathies also adds that "The combination of our program goals, 100 percent co-op and internship placement, and students' frequent use of local equipment to gain hands-on experience add up to success for both employers and students in the region."

John Will, who's on his way to joining Coldwater Machine as a mechanical engineer, said the experiential learning he and his classmates gained by working with on-site equipment was the best preparation he could have asked for.

Last summer, students also participated in the program's first international trip, which allowed them to work with German students to build microprocessors for Battle Bots. Students were challenged to continue the research they started overseas by applying their research to domestic applications back in Ohio.

Many of the students' senior design projects are already doing just that.

"My team's senior design project consists of developing a police robot for the Grand Lake Regional SWAT team," said John Neiferd. "We are developing a product that will actually be used to benefit the entire community by helping to keep people safe. That's a good feeling."

Community outreach is part of the experience too. Last year, the program hosted the first Lake Campus trebuchet competition for local high schools. Lake Campus engineering students also worked with Dayton Public Schools students to help them build their own Battle Bot for competition.

"That was a positive experience because the students gained so much by sharing what they've been learning in their engineering classes," said Mathies. "We knew that they were the model students for our new program, but they also learned how important it is to be role models for future engineers too." **W**

## wright hydroplanes

The Wright brothers' original aviation firm, the Wright Company, accomplished more than inventing the airplane. The company also experimented with and built hydroplanes and flying boats.

Photos of the company's hydroplanes and aeroboats can be viewed in the Wright Brothers Collection, housed in Special Collections and Archives in the Wright State University Libraries.

The collection features images of Wright Company hydroplanes under construction and flying near the Miami River and aeroboat experiments on the river, as well as the 1922 christening of the Wilbur Wright, a flying boat built by the Wright Aeronautical Corporation, which was created when the Wright Company merged with the Glenn L. Martin Company of California.

More images are available at [wright.edu/hydroplanes](http://wright.edu/hydroplanes).



1. *Wilbur and Orville Wright conducting hydroplane experiments on the Miami River in Dayton in March 1907. The Wrights experimented with hydroplanes and floats.*
2. *The Wright Model G Flyer Aeroboat, under construction in the Wright Company factory. Grover Loening designed the Model G for the Wright Company.*
3. *Fuselage of the Wright Model G Aeroboat under construction in the Wright Company factory.*
4. *The Wright Model G Aeroboat being assembled near the Miami River.*
5. *Orville Wright and others watch two men turning propellers to start the engine of the Wright Model G Aeroboat on the shore of the Miami River.*
6. *The Wright Model G Aeroboat in flight just above the Miami River.*
7. *Wright Model G Aeroboat taking off from the Miami River.*
8. *The Wright Model CH Flyer on the Miami River in the summer of*

*1913. The Flyer is fitted with a single large main pontoon and a smaller pontoon attached to the tail.*

9. *Orville Wright standing in the Miami River between the pontoons of a Wright Model CH Flyer in the summer of 1913. Two unidentified men sit in the seats of the Flyer.*
10. *Wright Model CH Flyer fitted with twin, multistep pontoons in flight over the Miami River. Two men sitting in a boat on the river are observing the flight.*
11. *Jon G. Kloechler and an unidentified man standing in the water near a slipway in front of a Wright Model B Flyer fitted with twin pontoons.*
12. *Wright Model B Flyer fitted with twin pontoons sitting in a hangar.*
13. *Percy Mackaye, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and Orville and Katharine Wright wave from the Wright Aeronautical Corporation flying boat the Wilbur Wright at its christening in 1922.*

8



9



10



11



12



13





## building bridges

### ortiz helps university connect with latino community

By ANDREW CALL

L. TONY ORTIZ HELPED BUILD ONE OF WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY'S most successful academic programs.

Today, however, he's all about building bridges.

The university's new associate vice president for Latino affairs helped organize leaders from various Dayton-area Latino organizations into the "Latino Dream Team" in 2008. The group developed a strategic plan to pool community resources that would help address education, health care, economic, and quality-of-life issues.

According to Ortiz, more than 80 percent of students who have received scholarships from the Dream Team initiatives have used them to attend Wright State.

"Building that bridge to Wright State was one of the things I had hoped to achieve," Ortiz said.

The university embraced the opportunity to build even more bridges by naming the 58-year-old Lorain native to his current post in October 2013.

Ortiz's community activism began long before his current job, however. Wright State student Kathryn Brown, who volunteers as a mentor for Latino teens, referred to Ortiz as "almost like the president of the Latino community" in a February 2013 story on the university website.

One of his most visible initiatives has been El Puente Learning Center, a program staffed, in large part, by Wright State students. El Puente serves children from Latino families in grades K-6.

"El Puente has become a magnet for Wright State students who embrace service learning," Ortiz said.

Those who have worked with Ortiz say he sets a good example of service mentality for those students.

"Tony has lived the Latino experience in Ohio," said Rosa Caskey, volunteer coordinator for El Puente. "Wright State is young as an institution and is beginning to open doors to those who rarely dreamed that higher education was a possibility. To have Tony Ortiz in that position can only make Wright State the 'Right Choice.'"

Ohio Governor John Kasich named Ortiz to the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs in 2012 after meeting with Ortiz and other "Dream Team" members in 2011. *Ohio Magazine* named Ortiz one of its Excellence in Education honorees.

Ortiz's reputation for academic excellence grew alongside his reputation for community service.

He moved to Dayton in 1980, joined the Wright State staff as

head athletic trainer in 1985, and transitioned to full-time faculty member in 2008. During his time as director of the athletic training academic program, enrollment grew from six students to 80 and recent graduates enjoyed 100 percent job placement.

"Building that program was very rewarding, but I put in a lot of 80-hour weeks to get there," Ortiz said.

In 2008, Ortiz approached Robert Sweeney, executive vice president for planning and secretary to the Board of Trustees, with the idea of establishing a more active institutional approach to Latino affairs. Sweeney endorsed the notion, named Ortiz the university's community liaison, and helped him assemble the "Dream Team."

University statistics indicate there were 434 Hispanic American students enrolled at Wright State in the fall of 2013. Ortiz would like to expand scholarship, internship, and networking opportunities and increase retention for them.

"That's what we're all about at Wright State—being inclusive," Ortiz said. "Some of these programs will help much more than Latinos. If they help bring students to Wright State and give them the opportunity to get a degree, well, mission accomplished."

Ortiz's new mission includes many other projects.

- *The second Latino Education Summit, a showcase of best practices, is scheduled for March 2014.*
- *The STEM and Sports program, which uses athletic competition as a vehicle to promote tutoring and career options in the STEM disciplines.*
- *An alumni association for Latino graduates is being formed, with the first event planned for May 2014.*

Other current projects for Ortiz include potential partnerships in Panama and a dual language degree program.

Of course, Ortiz will remain active in some of his previous ventures that are not directly university related. The Immigrant Leadership Institute, for example, offers resources to many other people groups—most recently, to immigrants from Sudan.

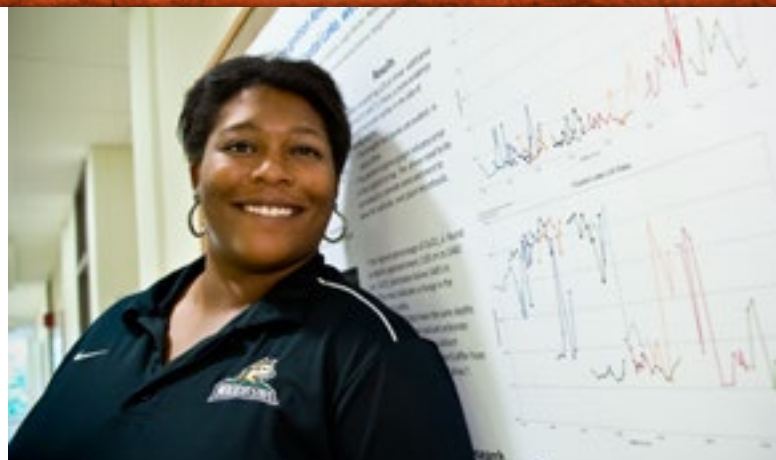
Ortiz said he believes he has been given an opportunity to "pay it forward." A family friend named Saul Torres helped encourage Ortiz to pursue a college degree, first at Lorain County Community College, then at Bowling Green State University.

"This is the first time in 35 years I'm not teaching, and I do miss the kids," Ortiz said. "But this is something I've been wanting to do for a long time." **W**

# rock steady

## wright state geology student to present at national conference

By JIM HANNAH



AS A YOUNG GIRL, ELIZABETH FREEMAN WOULD CARVE UP CREEKBEDS LOOKING FOR FOSSILS. While her mother was studying at Wright State University, seven-year-old Elizabeth would visit campus classrooms and offices to look at fossil fish or spend time in the library reading about geology and archaeology.

In the ensuing years, Freeman continued to inhale geology. She went on nature hikes and digs. She visited science museums. There was a trip to the Everglades and Yellowstone National Park, where she took a peek into the Earth's interior.

Today, Freeman is on the verge of realizing her childhood dream—getting a college degree in earth and environmental sciences. And to make it even sweeter, the Wright State senior was selected to make a presentation at the Geological Society of America's national conference in Denver.

"There is a place for geology; it's very applicable," Freeman said. "I want to see more people—male and female—getting into it. We need to cultivate kids who want to be scientists."

Freeman's college career was interrupted when she contracted mononucleosis and was forced to drop out. For the next three years, she worked to save money to finish college and then returned. She credits much of her success to the faculty in the College of Science and Mathematics' Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences.

"She was wiser, with more self-confidence and determination that nothing would stand in her way of becoming a geologist," said her mother, Olivia, who served as a surgeon's assistant in the U.S. Army.

Elizabeth, who plays rugby on a Dayton team in her spare time, believes that some women veer away from geology in part because the field is perceived as a gritty, get-your-hands-dirty career more suited to men.

"What she is best known for is being that girl who comes to the dig in full makeup and carrying a purse," said Olivia. "She wants to let people know that you don't have to be all baggy pants and sweatshirts to be a scientist."

Another reason some women don't think of geology as a career choice is because there are few strong role models for them, Elizabeth said.

"I had a long, tough road and I made it; and they can make it too," she said. "You have to just tell people it's possible. There are women who I think would be great scientists. Why don't we celebrate scientists, as they really should be anyway?"

The number of women in the undergraduate degree programs at Wright State that focus on earth sciences has been increasing in recent years. Overall, 59 percent of the students are men and 41 percent are

women.

Freeman's geology career got a boost in 2012 when she was volunteering at a geology conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, and met Mark Leckie, a professor of micropaleontology at the University of Massachusetts. Leckie is a well-known authority on forams, single-celled organisms that as microfossils can accurately give the dates of rocks and reveal a lot about the ocean-climate system. Sensing Freeman's enthusiasm, Leckie encouraged her to apply for an internship in Amherst to help him with foram research.

"It was definitely an honor to even be selected for something like that," Freeman said. "He was very nurturing in that he saw I had a passion for this and he's trying to get me to where I want to go. All of his students go on to do something. That's kind of promising."

During the internship, Leckie was helping a colleague who had discovered in Big Water, Utah, the fossilized bones of a pliosaur, a sea serpent-like reptile that lived at the same time as its dinosaur cousins and swam in the great inland sea of what is now the American West. Leckie was using foram data to determine the environment in which the pliosaur lived and handed off the categorizing of core samples to Freeman.

"It is definitely going to shed some light on the paleo environment, which is really big," said Freeman.

As a result, Freeman submitted an abstract that she co-wrote with Leckie for presentation at the GSA's conference in Denver on Oct. 29. She presented a poster at the conference summarizing their research and fielded questions from professionals. The research findings suggest that the pliosaur thrived despite fluctuating oceanographic conditions.

Leckie said Freeman learned a lot in a short period of time and generated original data that was presented at the conference.

"This was an important step in moving on to grad school and honing her scientific skills and research interests," Leckie said.

Freeman's career goal is to be a research geologist involved in ocean projects. And she has a burning desire to go to Antarctica.

"It's the last frontier, and it's all scientists down there," she said. "It would be so cool to hang out with a bunch of scientists and speak science to each other."

Freeman says a friend of hers has a four-year-old daughter who brings home rocks.

"I said, 'Don't kill that. She obviously has a natural interest in it. You might as well cultivate that,'" Freeman said. "Cultivate these kids who want to be scientists. Science and math is where it's at; if we don't have that, our country is doomed." **W**

# a daughter's love

## wright state alumna honors her parents with a scholarship for hispanic nursing students

By KIM PATTON

*"To my father who taught me belief in education of the mind and to my mother who showed me how with heart and soul."*

So read the dedication of Nelda "Nel" Martinez's doctoral dissertation. While the words may be few, the love and gratitude they convey are immense.

Even though her mother never graduated from high school and her father earned a GED, education was a priority in the Martinez household. "I give a lot of credit to my parents for really valuing the importance of education," says Martinez, who grew up in an all-Hispanic community in San Antonio, Texas.

Martinez's parents, Frank and Anita, expected their children to go to school every day, finish school, and then head off to college. The merits of higher education were so deeply ingrained into her family values that Martinez knew by the time she was in high school that she would go on to complete her Ph.D.

When her father was given the opportunity to continue his career at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Martinez stayed with an older brother to finish high school in San Antonio. After graduation, she joined her parents in Dayton to attend college. While her father wanted her to apply to Ohio State, Martinez was too intimidated by the size of OSU and chose to stay closer to her new home. Already interested in nursing, she enrolled at Wright State.

### A trailblazer for future generations

When she entered Wright State, Martinez had no idea that her education would be a series of firsts. In 1978, she was the first Hispanic American to graduate from Wright State with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In 1982, she received her master's degree in rehabilitation and community health nursing from Wright State—another first. She then went on to complete her Ph.D. in nursing at Ohio State, once again earning the distinction as the first Hispanic American to reach this milestone at OSU.

While Martinez is far too modest to think of herself as a trailblazer, she continues to reach out to students and families from underrepresented populations—especially minorities and first-generation college students—to promote the importance of higher education.

As she helps build the pipeline to higher education, Martinez acknowledges that it's absolutely critical for high school students to earn their diplomas. "If they don't finish high school, how are they even going to be at your college doors? We really need to help the younger kids."

For students arriving at the doors of the University of Texas—Brownsville, where Martinez serves as dean and professor of nursing, they are welcomed with open arms. Cheering them on with her "you can do it" mentality, Martinez encourages all of her students to realize their fullest potential.

"I really enjoy undergraduate education," says Martinez. "I've taught all levels—I've even taught medical school—but in undergraduate education, you can really make an impact. What's most important is that they learn to believe in themselves."





### **Honoring her greatest inspiration**

Today, Martinez is paying tribute to the people who believed in her the most—her parents—with a scholarship that bears their names.

The Frank and Anita Martinez Hispanic Nursing Scholarship supports Hispanic students who are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Wright State University. While Martinez first established the scholarship in 2003, she has since pledged a portion of her estate to endow the scholarship for future generations.

For Martinez, helping to educate tomorrow's nurses was the perfect tribute to her parents. "If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be where I am today," she explains. "They were so helpful and

supportive. They helped me understand that I had more going for me than I realized."

While her father passed away before the scholarship was created, Martinez was able to share the news of her gift with her mother. "I wanted her to know how much she impacted my life," says Martinez.

In the years prior to her mother's death, Martinez enjoyed showing her thank-you notes from the scholarship recipients. Through those pieces of paper, Martinez could illustrate to her mother how she and her late husband not only inspired their own children—but an entire generation—to pursue their degrees and follow their dreams. **W**





*Larry Dosser, Ph.D.*

## **New Center for Manufacturing Sciences**

The Wright State University Center for Manufacturing Sciences, which was announced in September, builds on the rich history of manufacturing in Ohio by creating an exciting environment for students and seasoned manufacturers in which to work and learn together.

The center (CMS) will focus on knowledge-based manufacturing and best practices, which enable students and manufacturers to connect through co-op and internship programs as well as web-based interactions.

Larry R. Dosser, founder and chairman emeritus of Mound Laser & Photonics Center, Inc., was named as the center's senior fellow for technology advancement.



*Courtney Simons, Ph.D.*

## **Lake Campus launches food science program**

Courtney Simons is heading up the new food science program at Wright State University's Lake Campus. A native of Jamaica, Simons has led a career in food processing that's taken him from Jamaica to India to North Dakota and now Ohio.

The mission of food science—which involves chemistry, physics, biology, math, and engineering—is to ensure that food is nutritious, of high quality, and safe to eat. It is also aimed at minimizing waste and finding ways to make the most efficient use of ingredients.

Courses being offered this spring include food processing, food safety, food laws and regulations, and an introductory overview of food science.



*College of Education and Human Services*

## **Top college for teacher education**

Wright State was named a top college for teacher education by a national organization that has become a leader in providing educational information to libraries, high schools, and career centers across the country.

The online College Database ranked Wright State No. 7 among 52 four-year Ohio college campuses for "Top Colleges in Ohio: Shaping the Next Generation."

The San Francisco-based College Database set out to find the post-secondary institutions in each state with the highest number of graduates in 2012 in the fields of education and teaching.

Wright State awarded 591 education degrees, eclipsing schools such as Miami University, the University of Dayton, and Xavier University.



*Mary Ellen Ashley*

## **Ashley named VP for enrollment management**

A higher education veteran with 40 years of experience, Mary Ellen Ashley was named vice president for enrollment management. Ashley is already playing a leading role in strengthening enrollments and marketing the university to prospective students.

Ashley most recently served as executive vice president of enrollment management and student services, planning and strategic initiatives, and chief operating officer of the Lawrence Campus for Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts.

Prior to Northern Essex, Ashley served as associate vice president, student affairs and services at the University of Cincinnati, and dean, residential learning, wellness, and student services at California State University Monterey Bay.

## Mickey-Boggs named associate VP for human resources and chief human resources officer

Shari Mickey-Boggs' 20-plus years of experience in the human resources field, extensive background in higher education institutions, and engaging leadership style were among many reasons why she was named associate vice president for human resources and chief human resources officer.

Among many strengths, Mickey-Boggs is adept at developing human resources as a strategic business partner through initiatives such as performance management evaluation and redesign, employee communication and engagement, and improvement of benefits and wellness programs.

Previously at Xavier University, she had served as senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer since 2007. She also brings 12 years of experience from The Ohio State University.

## Business students take professional pledge

Believed to be the first of its kind in the area, Wright State's Raj Sooin College of Business conducted a Business Professional Pledge similar to those taken by CFA Charter holders, law students, medical students, and others. More than 200 students participated in the event.

Students stood in front of faculty, staff, and peers to pledge their commitment to the college's student professional code. For many students the moment served as an impactful new beginning to their college careers. At the same time, representatives from local businesses also pledged their support for business education and students in the business college.

## Webb named director of Disability Services

Thomas Webb, a veteran disability services advocate focused on equal opportunity for all students, is the new director of the Office of Disability Services (ODS).

As director at Wright State, Webb assumes the responsibility of sustaining and advancing high-quality programs and services that support the individual needs and overall success of Wright State's students. His experience and background have positioned him well to work with ODS staff and the community to continue setting national standards of excellence in the area of access and accommodation.

Webb came to Wright State from the University of Delaware, where he served as director of the Office of Disability Support Services. He also served two years in Washington, D.C., as a Kennedy Disability Policy Fellow, which included working with the 110th Congress on multiple policy issues including negotiating and drafting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008.

## Rinzler Student Sports Complex honored

Wright State University's Rinzler Student Sports Complex received top honors in an annual publication citing the best architectural design on school and college campuses. The complex received the Sports Stadiums/Athletic Facilities Citation in the 2013 *American School and University Architectural Portfolio*, which celebrates the best in education design. The citation is the highest award presented in the Sports Stadiums/Athletic Facilities category. The Rinzler complex was one of 145 projects featured in the portfolio and the November issue of *American School and University*.



Shari Mickey-Boggs



Business Professional Pledge at Raj Sooin College of Business



Thomas Webb



Rinzler Student Sports Complex



Top row, from left to right: David R. Hopkins, Wright State president; Carolyn Wright, president of the Wright State Alumni Association Board of Directors; Greg Scharer, executive director of alumni relations

Bottom row, from left to right: David Brush, brother of award recipient Michael P. Brush (accepted the award on Michael's behalf); Anthony "Scott" Keen; Satyam Kantamneni; Bradley Roediger; Lilah H. Findley; Elizabeth Omolewu, mother of award recipient Rachel F. Omolewu (accepted the award on Rachel's behalf).

## alumni achieving greatness

The Wright State University Alumni Association recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of Wright State alumni on an annual basis at an awards ceremony celebrated each fall during Homecoming weekend. The outstanding individuals who are selected from a pool of over 100,000 Wright State alumni are recognized for achieving numerous accomplishments in their chosen fields and communities. In addition to possessing high standards of integrity and character, they have also given their time and talent to benefit Wright State University and the Alumni Association.

On October 11 in a green-and-gold-lit room, guests' taste buds were delighted by hors d'oeuvres, families and friends celebrated, and David Hopkins dazzled the audience as eight distinguished alumni were honored by the Wright State Alumni Association, their colleagues, and peers in the following categories:

*African American Alumni Society*

*Award of Excellence:*

**Charlotte M. Harris, Ed.D., '91 M.Hum.**

*Athletics Alumni Award of Excellence:*

**Anthony "Scott" Keen,  
'86 B.S.Egr., '93 M.S.Egr.**

*International Alumni Award of Excellence:*

**Satyam Kantamneni, '03 M.S.Egr.**

*Nonprofit Leadership Alliance*

*Award of Excellence:*

**Bradley Roediger, '10 B.A., '12 M.P.A.**

*Social Work Alumni Society*

*Award of Excellence:*

**Lilah H. Findley, '05 B.A.**

*Graduate of the Last Decade:*

**Rachel F. Omolewu, '10 M.S.**

*Volunteer Service Award:*

**Michael P. Brush, '02 B.S.Ed.**

*Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award:*

**Joyce Beatty, '75 M.S.**

A revised set of awards and criteria will be rolled out in May 2014. The Association encourages the public to nominate alumni deserving recognition. Award criteria and an electronic nomination form will be made available on the Wright State alumni website, [www.wrightstatealumni.com](http://www.wrightstatealumni.com), beginning in May. There are no restrictions on the number of nominations a person may submit, and people submitting nominations do not need to be graduates of Wright State University. The Alumni Association Board will make the final award winner selections.

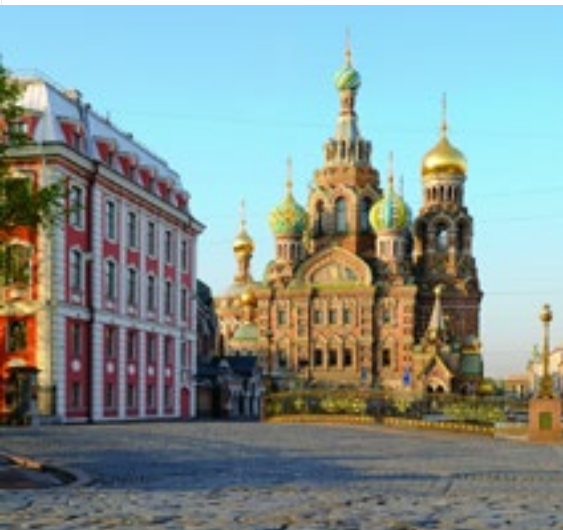
**The deadline for nominations for the 2014 Alumni Achievement Awards ceremony is August 8, 2014.**

# alumni education

Learning doesn't end at graduation. Join fellow Wright State alumni in learning, traveling, and growing throughout your life. The Alumni Association offers opportunities to learn through programs such as Alumni College or by traveling abroad to learn more about different cultures.

Alumni College is a weekend-long educational experience back on campus with Wright State's stellar faculty presenting on their area of expertise. The topics are always timely and entertaining, with many being hands-on and interactive. Last year's agenda had everything from DNA profiling to the American presidency, art, and archaeology.

**SAVE THE DATE for this year's Alumni College, the weekend of August 2, 2014. Check our website this spring for the 2014 sessions and information.**



# alumni travel



The Alumni Travel program offers unique educational itineraries that focus on culture, art, history, and architecture. Our upcoming trips include Albania, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland, and Uruguay.

Visit [wrightstatealumni.com/travel](http://wrightstatealumni.com/travel) for a complete listing of our 2014-15 trips.



## connecting with alumni

wherever they are and whatever their interest

The Wright State University Alumni Association Network and Society programs exist to provide assistance and support for the continuing success of Wright State University and to offer responsive programs, diverse activities and services, and enriched camaraderie for alumni. Examples of programs and activities include wine tastings, community service activities, happy hours, and professional development networking events. In the last three years the Alumni Association has more than doubled the number of networks and societies.

To date, we have 18 networks and societies operating:

- African American Alumni Society
- Boonshoft School of Medicine Alumni Society
- College of Nursing and Health Alumni Society
- GOLD—Graduates of the Last Decade
- Greater Cleveland Alumni Network
- Greater Cincinnati Alumni Network
- Greater Columbus Alumni Network
- Greater Dayton Alumni Network
- Greater New York City Alumni Network
- Indianapolis Alumni Network
- International Alumni
- Lake Campus Alumni Network
- Model United Nations Alumni Society
- Motion Picture Alumni Society
- Tampa Alumni Network
- Social Work Alumni Society
- Student Alumni Association
- Washington, D.C. Alumni Network

Along with programming and activities, several of our alumni networks and societies have started their own scholarships. Each of their scholarships are supporting Wright State students.

In the last few years, the Alumni Association has expanded to five alumni scholarships:

- African American Alumni Society Scholars Fund
- Greater Cleveland Alumni Network Scholarship
- Lake Campus Alumni Network Scholarship Fund
- Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Alumni Society Scholarship
- Social Work Alumni Society Scholarship Fund

Please visit [www.wrightstatealumni.com](http://www.wrightstatealumni.com) to learn more about our networks, societies, or scholarships.



### save these dates

Aug. 2–3, 2014 Alumni College

*Here's a chance for alumni to relive their college days by taking a variety of classes and other activities from Wright State professors.*

Aug. 10, 2014 Kings Island

Aug. 25, 2014 Alumni Association Legacy Golf Outing

Sept. 29–Oct. 4, 2014 Homecoming Week



## alumni association's annual legacy scholarship golf outing

The 37th Annual Wright State University Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing was a success again this year. Over \$20,000 was brought in to support the Legacy Scholarship program.

The event was held on August 19 at the Heatherwoode Golf Club in Springboro. Participants enjoyed lunch, raffle prizes, and after the morning fog lifted, a beautiful day for golf; all while raising funds for student scholarships.

Established in 1994, the Legacy Scholarship program has awarded over 500 individual scholarships to the spouses, children, step-children, grandchildren, and legal dependents of Alumni Association members. For more information about the program, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620. Please save the date, Monday, August 25, for the 2014 Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing to be held at Beaver Creek Golf Club.

The Wright State Alumni Association would like to extend a very special thank-you to the following sponsors and individuals who made the 2013 event the best yet!

### Lunch Sponsor

**SEI** New ways.  
New answers.®

### Breakfast Sponsor

  
**WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION**

### Event Sponsors

**RAJ SOIN**  
College of Business  
**WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



THE CARILLON PROJECT  
ROBERT A. AND VERONICA B. SWEENEY  
FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

  
**Northwestern Mutual  
FINANCIAL NETWORK**  
ANDREW J. PLATT  
FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVE/FIELD DIRECTOR



  
**FIFTH THIRD BANK**

**Wright Patt**  
CREDIT UNION, INC.

  
**JOHNSON  
INVESTMENT COUNSEL**



### Par Sponsors

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
AT  
**WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
YOUR ON-CAMPUS BOOKSTORE



**ABM**  
Building Value

  
**BROWER**  
a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company

  
**Greg Notestine DDS**  
smiles by design

### Hole Sponsors

ADAMS ROBINSON  
ADVANTAGE  
HEALTHCARE STAFFING  
BECKY COLE  
BOB AND RENEE REYNOLDS  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE  
AND MATHEMATICS  
COX MEDIA  
JAY ADAMS LAW OFFICE  
LJB INC.  
PICKREL BROS.  
STAFFCO CONSTRUCTION, INC.  
VANTAGE POINT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

### Cart Sponsors

BETHANY VOSBURG-BLUEM, '88, '92  
AND JOHN BLUEM  
BRADY WARE  
ED & DIANE PHILLIPS  
EBS ASSET MANAGEMENT  
INITIAL POINT  
JAYNE GMEINER  
LAKE CAMPUS  
LJB INC.  
MCMANAGEMENT GROUP  
POHLMAN & TALMAGE  
STEWART EYECARE

### Prize Sponsors

AD PRO  
BARNES AND NOBLE  
AT WRIGHT STATE  
COLLEGE STORE  
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS  
FLEMINGS  
GOLFSMITH  
HAMPTON INN  
JIFFY LUBE  
JOHNSON INVESTMENT COUNCIL  
OPTIMUS LLC  
TEXAS ROADHOUSE  
TGI FRIDAYS  
THE DAYTON FUNNY BONE  
TROPICAL SMOOTHIE CAFÉ  
VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION  
WRIGHT STATE ATHLETICS  
WRIGHT STATE COLLEGE  
OF LIBERAL ARTS  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE,  
DANCE, & MOTION PICTURES  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
NUTTER CENTER  
W.O. WRIGHTS  
WDTN & DAYTON CW STUDIOS  
YOUNG'S JERSEY DAIRY

## 2013

**Cassie Fishbein (M.S.)**, a certified pediatric nurse practitioner, joined the pediatric practice of Karen Smith and Abigail Fischer in Kitsap, WA.

**Kurt Holden (B.S.)** is a police officer at Wright State University.

**Jeremy Williams (B.S.B.)** is a consultant with Sogeti USA, a Dayton, OH-based information technology consulting services company.

## 2012

**Darin Awad (B.S.B.)** is employed at Wright-Patt Credit Union in Dayton, OH.

**Scott Christian (B.S.)** finished as one of the 10 best bartenders in the world in TGI Friday's World Bartending Championship.

**Maytal Levi (B.A.)** is working as a broadcaster with KEYC-TV-Online in North Mankato, MN.

**Elizabeth Morgan (M.A.)** lectured at the Hancock Historical Museum in Findlay, OH, about the World War II bombing mission and crash of her grandfather John Wells Kellogg's B-24 "The Maxwell House."

**Jake Schierloh (B.A.)** worked in the White House Internship Office within the Office of Management and Administration, managing programming for his fellow interns and educating potential applicants from across the nation about the program.

**Kyle Stauffer (B.S.B.)** is the accounts receivable administrator at Konecranes, Inc., a Springfield, OH-based company that provides lifting equipment and services.

**Alexandra Zelles (M.S.)**, a conservation biologist, co-wrote with Mark K. Leach *The Nineteenth Century Flora of Dane County, Wisconsin: A Twenty-First Century Update*, which lists more than 1,400 species of plants and lichens along with historical information on each.

## 2011

**Rebecca Cantrell (B.A.)(M.A.)** was named executive director of Ohio Robotics, Inc., a Dayton, OH-based nonprofit that uses robots to lead students into manufacturing careers.

**Francia De Francisco (B.F.A.)** is a production team member onboard for Royal Caribbean and marketing and production coordinator for Breathtakers Events Planners and Decorators.

**Hilary Fingerman (B.F.A.)** is starring in the 50th anniversary tour of the Tony Award-winning 1964 musical *Hello, Dolly!* which also stars actress Sally Struthers.

**Lashonta T. Hodges (B.A.)**, an Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class, graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, TX.

**Rachel Folashade Omolewu (M.S.)**, who conducts "Fit-for-Life" fitness and wellness boot camps in the United States and abroad, received the Graduate of the Last Decade Award at the 2013 Wright State University Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony.

**Anthony Petro (B.S.B.)** is assistant business manager for Wright State Athletics.

**Matt Wuebker (B.S.B.)** was named associate attorney at the Dublin, OH, law firm of Barrett, Easteday, Cunningham & Eselgroth LLP.

## 2010

**Jenna Filipkowski (M.S.)(Ph.D.)** is a research scientist at the Dayton, OH-based Chally Group Worldwide, which helps clients increase sales and management productivity and profitability.

**Eric D. Germann (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.)** is an intervention specialist at Highland Elementary School in Sparta, OH.

**Sara Pyszka (B.S.)** wrote *Dancing Daisies*, a novel about a 17-year-old girl with cerebral palsy who must use a computer to communicate and a power wheelchair.

**Bradley Roediger (B.A.)(M.P.A.)**, volunteer services coordinator for the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Dayton, OH, received the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Alumni Society Award of Excellence at the 2013 Wright State University Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony.

**Julie (Brown) Williams (B.S.B.)** is a financial analyst in the Dayton, OH, office of DRS Technologies, Inc., an Arlington, VA-based supplier of products, services, and support for military forces, intelligence agencies, and prime contractors worldwide.

## 2009

**Danielle Aveyard (B.F.A.)** is dancing with *FANTASY*, a Las Vegas show that features dancing, singing, acrobatics, and comedy.

**Rebecca Bettelon (B.S.B.)** announced the launch of Superior Hard Surface Solutions LLC, a family-owned and -operated tile-and-grout cleaning and epoxy-floor-coating business.

**Allyson Copper (M.A.)** is working as program coordinator in the Department of Leadership Studies in Education and Organizations in the College of Education and Human Services at Wright State University.

**Melinda Poist (M.Ed.)**, a special educator and board-certified behavior analyst, is serving children with autism in the Dayton, OH, area.

**Nan Whaley (M.P.A.)** was elected mayor of Dayton, OH.

## 2008

**Kristi Horvath (B.F.A.)** is manager of Duke University's Box Office & Information Desk, managing ticketing and front-of-house operations for performing arts events at several different venues on campus.

**Steffin Johnson (B.M.)** was a featured performer at the Schuster Center in Dayton, OH, for TEDxDayton, talks devoted to spreading ideas from the world's most inspired people.

**Sherri Ladd (B.S.)**, a published author and owner of an e-commerce business, is employed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH, as a human-resources specialist.

## 2007

**Randall Daniel (M.P.A.)** is vice president of the Bellbrook (OH) Sugarcreek Optimist Club. Daniel oversees the Edward Jones office in Bellbrook and is a volunteer with the Kairos Prison Ministry in the Lebanon Correctional Institution, where he helps provide a 72-hour Christian course for inmates.

**Sara Houston (M.D.)** joined the pediatrics department at Essentia Health-South University Clinic in Fargo, ND.

**Mark W. Knox (B.S.B.)** is a regional sales supervisor for Sony Electronics in Cincinnati, OH, promoting home theater products across the Mid-Atlantic region.

**Andrew J. Neumeier (B.S.B., M.B.A.)** is director of school account specific marketing in the Kettering, OH, office of ACCO Brands Corporation, a supplier of branded office products.

**Brookelyn Perry (B.S.)** is working as a hair stylist at the Montgomery Hair Boutique in Montgomery, OH, specializing in keratin hair treatments.

**Derrick Seaver (B.A.)**, former member of the Ohio House of Representatives, is director of field operations for Advocacy Group, Inc., an independently owned public affairs consultancy with offices in Washington, DC, Austin, TX, and Minster, OH.

## 2006

**Angelle Haney Gullett (B.A.)** narrated an audiobook, *A Marker to Measure Drift* by Alexander Maksik, for Random House Audiobooks.

**Tiffany Jenkins (B.S.)** was named quality engineer for DG Medical, in charge of overseeing U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations for the Centerville, OH-based manufacturer specializing in plastic molding of medical devices.

**Bette S. Sydelko (M.Ed.)** was honored with the 2013 Distinguished Librarian of the Year Award by the Midwest chapter of the Medical Library Association during its annual meeting in East Peoria, IL.

## 2005

**Douglas Duff (B.S.)**, who for four years served as a patent examiner for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, was hired as an associate in the litigation and intellectual property group of Ice Miller LLP, a Columbus, OH-based law firm.

**Lilah H. Findley (B.A.)**, a licensed social worker who works as a therapist for children at Samaritan Behavioral Health in Dayton, OH, received the Social Work Alumni Society Award of Excellence at the 2013 Wright State University Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony.

**Avinash Konkani (M.S.)** was named Professional of the Month by *TechNation*, a monthly magazine and resource guide for more than 12,000 medical service professionals.

**Kimberly Watkins (M.Ed.)** was named principal of Schaefer Middle School in Springfield, OH.

## 2004

**Misty (Woods) Baker (B.S.Ed.)** was named the new principal of the Cridersville Elementary School in Wapakoneta, OH.

**Leslie I. Benson (B.A.)**, a journalist and marketer living in Indianapolis, IN, was promoted to public relations specialist/

copywriter at the civil engineering consulting firm American Structurepoint, Inc.

**Liz Wheeler (B.F.A.)**, a middle school drama instructor at the Columbus (OH) School for Girls, starred in *A Lovely Night*, a musical fundraiser by the SRO Theatre Company at the Columbus Performing Arts Center.

### 2003

**Michael Gebhart (B.A.)(M.P.A.)** is the community development director for the City of Fairborn (OH).

**Chastity Edwards (M.D.)**, a surgical specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, joined the medical staff of the Sidney Health Center in Sidney, MT.

**Sundaram Nagarajan (M.B.A.)**, executive vice president of Illinois Tool Works Inc., was named to the board of directors of EWI, a Columbus, OH-based company that develops and applies manufacturing technology innovation in the manufacturing industry.

### 2002

**Nancy Lintner (B.S.N.)(M.S.N.)** participated in writing the first Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses guidelines for diabetes and pregnancy, which will be published in 2014. She also participated in writing a book chapter for *The Manual of Obstetrics, Endocrine Diabetes*, editor Arthur T. Evans, M.D.

**Lincoln Schreiber (B.A.)(M.A.)**, a poet and adjunct faculty member at Sinclair Community College, helped reactivate poetry slams in Dayton, OH, with an event at the University of Dayton's Art Street Studio B.

### 2001

**Alicia Burdick (B.S.B.)** became a certified public accountant in South Carolina after passing the CPA exam.

**Edward Burdick (B.S.B.)** was promoted by the U.S. Army to Chief Warrant Officer Two.

**Jason Gilder (Ph.D.)** is director of infomatics for Explorys, a Cleveland, OH-based company that analyzes and organizes data from hospitals around the nation.

**Angela Kahle (B.F.A.)** is in her 10th season as a dancer with the Radio City Rockettes.

### 2000

**Sean Barnett (M.D.)**, a former surgeon at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, has been named chief medical officer at

Kaleidoscope, a Cincinnati-based company that offers clinical expertise in medical product design and development.

**Rick Davis (B.F.A.)** is the owner of DH Productions, a Dayton, OH-based company that produces documentaries, television shows, and commercials.

**William Lutz (B.S.)(M.P.A.)**, development program manager for the City of Piqua, OH, was named "Forty Under 40" award winner by the *Dayton (OH) Business Journal*. The award honors top young talent.

**Kelly Mahaffey Burns (M.B.A.)** is senior financial analyst for BAE Systems, Inc., a defense, security, and aerospace company.

**TyKiah R. Wright (B.S.B.)(M.B.A.)**, president of WrightChoice, Inc., a Columbus, OH-based workforce development organization, will be appointed by President Obama to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

### 1999

**Darius Prier (B.A.)(M.U.A.)**, an assistant professor in the School of Education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, was named Alumnus of the Year by Wright State University's Department of Urban Affairs and Geography.

**Kimberly Puckett (M.Ed.)**, a mathematics instructor at the Tri-Village Local School District in Darke County, OH, was presented with the K-12 Promotion of Education Award at the 2013 Women of Color STEM Conference in Dallas, TX.

**Gregory Schumm (Ed.S.)** has served 35 years at the Wright State University-Lake Campus. His positions have included associate professor, advisor, assistant dean, associate dean, interim dean, director of community services, and coordinator of dual enrollment.

### 1997

**Nathaniel T. Church (B.S.B.)** is the owner of On Track Wellness, a San Diego-based company devoted to helping people improve their overall wellness for sports or life.

**Lt. Col. Evangelina Duman (M.S.)**, commander of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Detachment 7 at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts, was named Woman of the Week as part of Women's History Month.

**Thomas Hess (M.R.C.)** was named director of transition services for the Licking County (OH) Board of Developmental Disabilities.

**Chris Jackson (B.S.)(M.S.)** joined Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP's Intellectual Property practice group in Columbus, OH.

**Shea Pease (B.S.B.)** was promoted to senior manager at ParenteBeard, ranked among the top 25 accounting firms in the United States.

**Kristina McBride Purnhagen (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.)** wrote *One Moment*, a novel that centers on how lives can change dramatically and forever in an instant.

### 1996

**Timothy Rogers (B.S.B.)** wrote *Ten Steps to ITSM Success: A Practitioner's Guide to Enterprise IT Transformation*.

### 1995

**George Noonan (B.S.B.)**, a certified public accountant, was admitted as a shareholder of Elliott Davis, LLC, an accounting, tax, and consulting services firm serving clients in the Southeast.

**Shirley (Ivory) Stallworth (M.Ed.)** founded the Straight Talk/Safe Space mentoring program in Petersburg, IN, for adolescent males.

### 1994

**Jennifer Converse Gebhart (B.S.B.)** is the general manager of the Wright State University Bookstore.

### 1993

**Kelly Kuhlman Brown (B.A.)** was named associate publisher of the *Dayton Region Magazine*.

**Gina (Burch) Kundan (B.F.A.)** was elected board chair of Ananya Dance Theatre, a Minneapolis, MN-based company that works to present works that exist at the intersection of artistic excellence and social justice.

**R. John Stukey (B.A.)** was named the health officer of Cass County, IN.

**Michael R. Thirtle (M.B.A.)(M.S.)** was named vice president of strategy and information systems at Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a Watertown, WI-based provider of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### 1992

**Kristin Gray (B.S.)** has a home-based business in Enon, OH, in which she and her husband tutor students from grades K-12 to help them improve their classroom skills, especially in math and language arts.

**Steve Heitbrink (B.S.B.)** purchased F&B Engraving Tools & Supply, a manufacturer of solid carbide tools for the award and signage industry, and is moving the company to Troy, OH.

**Nerina Jeanette Stepanovsky (M.S.)** was named distinguished alumna by the Mount Carmel College of Nursing in Columbus, OH.

**Kimberly McCrone Wickert (M.R.C.)**, a rehabilitation and disability specialist, co-authored *The Sandwich Generation's Guide to Eldercare*.

### 1991

**Charlotte M. Harris (M.Hum.)**, dean of the Wright State University College of Education and Human Services, received the African American Alumni Society Award of Excellence at the 2013 Wright State University Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony.

**Bill Murphy (B.A.)(M.U.A.)** was named executive vice president of economic development at the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

**Christine Sears (B.S.Ed.)** published a book titled *American Slaves and African Masters: Algiers and Western Sahara*.

**Wade R. Smith (M.S.)**, a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force and a flight test engineer with the Federal Aviation Administration's Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, is the mobilization assistant to the director, Defense Contract Management Agency, Alexandria, VA.

**Denise Stretcher (M.D.)**, a family practitioner who practiced medicine for nearly 20 years in Cincinnati, OH, joined Brevard Family Practice, which is affiliated with Transylvania Regional Hospital in Brevard, NC.

### 1990

**Andrew Baker (B.A.)** is working in the Department of Teacher Education at Wright State University.

**Eamon Costello (B.A.)**, assistant Madison County (OH) prosecutor, was named a Madison County Common Pleas Court judge, overseeing the general and domestic divisions.

### 1990

**Eric Loomis (B.S.C.S.)** is vice president and co-owner of The Design Knowledge Company, a Fairborn, OH-based software development company.



**Eric Rupert (B.A.)(M.A.)** was accepted into the Ph.D. program in English literature with a graduate teaching assistantship at Idaho State University, where he will begin his study of science fiction and philosophy in the spring of 2014.

**Kip Wright (A.A.)(B.S.)**, who addresses matters of student conduct at Wright State University–Lake Campus, won the Hometown Hero contest at the Mercer County Fair.

## 1989

**Nancy Brown Diggs (M.H.)** has written *Breaking the Cycle: How Schools Can Overcome Urban Challenges*, a book about inner-city teens who can achieve the American dream with the help of good schools.

**Sunil Kulkarni (M.B.A.)**, an investment advisor from Springboro, OH, started website [www.nuts2invest.com](http://www.nuts2invest.com) for people searching for investment information and discount opportunities.

**Robert Leonard (B.A.)** received the Community College Outstanding Educator Award from the National Communication Association.

**Jessica Odorcic (B.A.)** finished first among women runners and 16th overall in the 39th annual Youngstown (OH) Peace Race, a 10K run.

## 1987

**J. Andrew Chance (M.B.A.)** and his wife, Danette, have started Canopy Creek Farm, a working horse farm in Miamisburg, OH, available for special occasions such as weddings and receptions.

**Melinda Garcia (B.S.)** was appointed to the New Mexico State Rehabilitation Council.

**Kevin Jones (B.S.)** was named warden at the Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution in Lima, OH.

**Jim Utt (B.S.)** is president of Defense Engineering Corp., a Beavercreek, OH-based company that specializes in advanced sensor and processing technologies.

## 1986

**Bob Heaton (B.S.B.)** was named director of sales for the Northeast and Midwest Territory for Havells USA, an Atlanta-based company that provides LED, incandescent, halogen, fluorescent and high-intensity discharge lighting products, fixtures, and ballasts.

**Anthony “Scott” Keen (B.S.)(M.S.)**, chief engineer for the F-22 Program Division, Fighter-Bomber Directorate, Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and a .291 hitter over his four-year baseball career with the Wright State Raiders, received the Athletics Alumni Award of Excellence at the 2013 Wright State University Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony.

**Pablo Luther (M.B.A.)** was named chief financial officer of Liquid Robotics, a Sunnyvale, CA-based ocean data services provider and developer of the wave-powered Wave Glider marine robot.

**Brad Sherwood (B.F.A.)**, an improvisational comedian, performed with Colin Mochrie in *An Evening with Colin & Brad* at the Aronoff Center Procter & Gamble Hall in Cincinnati, OH.

## 1985

**Steven J. Berberich (B.S.)(Ph.D.)**, chair of the Wright State University Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was appointed associate provost for faculty and staff affairs.

**Brett Allen Cooper (B.S.E.)** was among those honored by the NASA Langley Research Center with the NASA Group Achievement Award for exceptional technical achievement and outstanding contributions to NASA and the nation in revolutionary technology development for advanced aircraft.

## 1984

**Ricky L. Peters (B.S.E.)**, a senior executive who has spent most of his 33-year Air Force career in technology and supervisory roles at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, is executive director of the Air Force Research Laboratory.

**William Priore (M.S.)** operates Strategic Sediment Solutions LLC, which specializes in investigating and remediating contaminated sediment.

## 1983

**Fred G. Dickenson (B.A.)** has written *Hard Knocks & Consequences Too*, a personal memoir of the hardships he faced and the joys that got him through.

## 1982

**Stephen W. Meldon, (B.S.)** is director of the Cleveland Clinic Main Campus Emergency

Department and vice chair, Emergency Services Institute, Cleveland Clinic Health System.

**Sharon Short (B.A.)** had her latest novel, *My One Square Inch of Alaska*, published by Penguin Plume.

**Cindy Stickley (M.Ed.)** was appointed to the West Liberty (WV) University Foundation.

**Thomas Verdon (M.S.)(B.F.A.)**, a painter, had his show *The Artful Struggle: A Creative Quest to Paint Our Own Kind* exhibited at the Yellow Springs (OH) Arts Council Gallery.

## 1981

**Gary McCullough (B.S.B.)** endowed the Gary & Kim McCullough Scholarship Fund at Wright State University.

**Thais Reiff (M.B.A.)**, a certified specialist in insects, trees, and the emerald ash borer, was named Ohio's 2013 Outstanding Master Gardener Volunteer.

## 1979

**Marianne Fisher-Giorlando (B.A.)** is volunteering at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola Museum and *The Angolite* prison news magazine after retiring as professor of criminal justice at Grambling State University.

## Rosemary Ramsey (B.A.)

**(M.B.A.)** was named the 2013 Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching at Wright State University and won an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education.

## 1978

**Kenneth C. Frisch (M.Ed.)** was appointed senior philanthropic services officer for the Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.

## 1976

**James R. Harris III (B.A.)** is founder and CEO/executive of Healthcare Economics LLC, a St. Petersburg, FL-based company that provides consulting services to manufacturers for biotech and pharmaceutical markets.

## 1975

**Joyce Beatty (M.S.)**, a U.S. congresswoman representing Ohio Third Congressional District, received the Distinguished Alumni Award of Excellence at the 2013 Wright State University Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony.

**Sharon Rab (M.Ed.)** was a featured speaker at the Schuster Center in Dayton, OH, for TEDxDayton, talks devoted to spreading ideas from the world's most inspired people.

**Richard Yinger (B.S.)** retired as a public health environmentalist with the Warren County (OH) Health Department.

## 1974

**Marilyn Balsamo (B.S.Ed.)(M.Ed.)** retired from Dayton Public Schools after 35 years of service.

## 1971

**James F. Wasson (B.S.)** retired after 40 years in the insurance industry.

## send us your notes

Send your news items to [alumni\\_news@wright.edu](mailto:alumni_news@wright.edu) and they will appear here and/or on the web version of the magazine, at [wright.edu/magazine](http://wright.edu/magazine)

## fowler focused on team success

By Andrew Call

Mark Fowler has learned it's not all about him.

"Part of the maturing process for me has been to shift my focus from stats and scouts to having a great senior year," Fowler said. "I want to be a leader, a team guy, and not spend much time thinking about myself."

The Wright State outfielder is coming off a junior year in which he batted .309, stole 11 bases, and was named to the Horizon League's all-newcomer team. He is hoping for even bigger things during the 2014 season.

Fowler's father, Mark Sr., played college baseball at Tennessee State before becoming a Cincinnati police officer. His mother, Kym, played high school basketball. Mark Fowler, Jr., gained athletic ability from both as well as a structured home life that included lots of sports for him and two older sisters.

"I was an energetic kid, and my mom

## competitive spirit serves dewitt well

By Andrew Call

Krystian DeWitt admits to being competitive.

"I hate losing," Wright State's senior pitcher said. "I'm the kind of person who, if I lose at Candyland, will look across the table and yell, 'Hey, you cheated!'"

While she may not be much fun at board games, DeWitt's coaches and teammates certainly appreciate her competitive side. She came into the 2014 season needing just four victories to become Wright State's all-time leader. The 2013 second-team all-Horizon League selection was already No. 1 in career starts and appearances.

"If you ask our players, 'Who do you know is going to get the job done?,' I am sure Krystian's name would be the first one that would pop into their heads," Raiders coach Lynn Curylo said.

DeWitt counts on a drop ball, a curve, and a "flip" changeup for outs. She can also count on experience, having played competitive softball since age 8. DeWitt was a star at Pacifica High School in Garden Grove, California, before choosing Wright State over New Mexico and Samford.

would rather see me play sports than to run around the house bouncing off the walls and knocking things off the table," Fowler said. "I started playing soccer and baseball when I was four and always loved sports."

Fowler was offered a football scholarship by Youngstown State during his senior year at Lakota West High School. But, at 5-foot-9 and 182 pounds, he did not foresee a future in professional football. Fowler instead spent two years at Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel, Illinois, where he batted .345 and caught Wright State coach Greg Lovelady's eye during a "scout day" workout.

"Mark has great speed and defensive ability, he's strong and has some power for not being an especially big guy," Lovelady said. "He is what pro guys look for. They'll just need to see consistency."

The business management major has forged a GPA well above 3.0 and is on schedule to graduate in the fall of 2014.

"He has fun, but he's respectful and humble," Lovelady said. "I hope my two sons will be like him when they grow up."

"I love the different seasons and the transitions in Ohio," said DeWitt, named an "honorary Midwesterner" by her teammates. "You don't see the reds and oranges in California that you do here. I also felt very welcomed at Wright State from the moment I set foot on campus."

The Raiders' 2013 team MVP has become less welcoming to opposing batters as her control has improved. She walked 4.84 batters per seven innings as a freshman, 2.24 last year. That improved control helped lead to a 1.98 ERA and .231 opponents' batting average last season.

"She drives a lot harder off the mound and is confident in throwing any pitch in any situation," Curylo said.

The organizational leadership major envisions a career in sales upon graduating, but will utilize her leadership skills this spring to help Wright State reach the top of the Horizon League.

"We have the best team in my four years here," DeWitt said. "Winning the league is definitely an achievable goal."



# CAMPUS





*Located at the front of the Student Union, Wright State's new Welcome Center is home to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and RaiderConnect (the combined offices of the registrar, bursar, and financial aid). The Welcome Center received an award from the Cleveland chapter of the American Institute of Architects and has been featured in at least eight architectural and interior design publications.*



Office of Marketing  
Office of the President  
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway  
Dayton, Ohio 45435-0001

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Dayton, Ohio 45401  
Permit No. 551

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
college of liberal arts  
**ARTSGALA**<sup>TM</sup>

april 12, 2014

6:30 p.m.–midnight

wright state  
creative arts center

[wright.edu/artsgala](http://wright.edu/artsgala)

