

Fall 2010

Community, Fall 2010

Office of Communications and Marketing, Wright State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/community>



Part of the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Office of Communications and Marketing, Wright State University (2010). *Community, Fall 2010*. .

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Marketing at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Community by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact library-corescholar@wright.edu.

FALL 2010

VOLUME XVI NO. 1

Community

The Magazine of Wright State University



The Puzzle
of Autism
Wright State
Alumni Are
Helping Put the
Pieces Together

Community

FALL 2010
VOLUME XVI NO. 1

Publisher and President of Wright State University
David R. Hopkins

*Associate Vice President for Communications
and Marketing*
George Heddeleston

Executive Director of Creative Services
Denise Robinow

Editor
Kim Patton

Cover Illustration
Deb Slater, The Arment Group

Design
Theresa Almond

Illustration
Travis Tarbox-Hotaling, The Arment Group

Contributing Writers
Richard Doty, Stephanie Gottschlich, Katie
Halberg, Jim Hannah, Cory MacPherson

Photography
William Jones, Chris Snyder, Roberta Bowers

Digital Imaging Manipulation
Chris Snyder

Community is published two times a year
by Advancement. Distribution is to Wright State
alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the university.

Submit information, comments, and letters to:

Community editor
106 Allyn Hall
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

Email: alumni_news@wright.edu

Welcome to this issue of
Community magazine.

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED a wonderful, relaxing
summer with family and friends.

While we have fewer students on campus
during summer months, things really don't
slow down here all that much. In fact, we
received some very exciting news this
summer.

Two more of our Centers of Excellence
were named Ohio Centers of Excellence.
That brings the total number of Ohio Centers
of Excellence located at Wright State to six.
The Ohio Centers of Excellence are nationally
recognized academic programs that generate
world-class research and help draw talent
and investment to the state.

Congratulations to Dr. Ramana Grandhi, director of the Ohio Center of
Excellence in Product Reliability and Optimization, and Dr. George Huang,
director of the Ohio Center of Excellence in Micro Air Vehicle Research, on this
outstanding achievement.

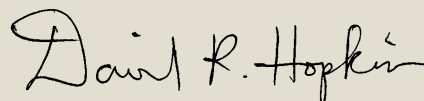
This announcement, made in July by Governor Ted Strickland and Ohio
Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut, recognized the transformational
impact Wright State's faculty, staff, and students have on Ohio's economy. The
Ohio Center of Excellence in Product Reliability and Optimization and the Ohio
Center of Excellence in Micro Air Vehicle Research are creating partnerships
that support Ohio's emerging industries and have the potential to create new
industries. We appreciate Governor Strickland and Chancellor Fingerhut's
continued support of our tradition of excellence.

Speaking of excellence, the cover story for this issue of *Community*
focuses on Vanessa Jensen and Catherine Gaw, two outstanding graduates
from Wright State's School of Professional Psychology who specialize in the
treatment of autism at the Cleveland Clinic. Did you know that autism is a
global epidemic affecting 67 million people worldwide? Vanessa and Catherine
are two stellar examples of how Wright State's alumni are making a difference
in the lives of people all over the world.

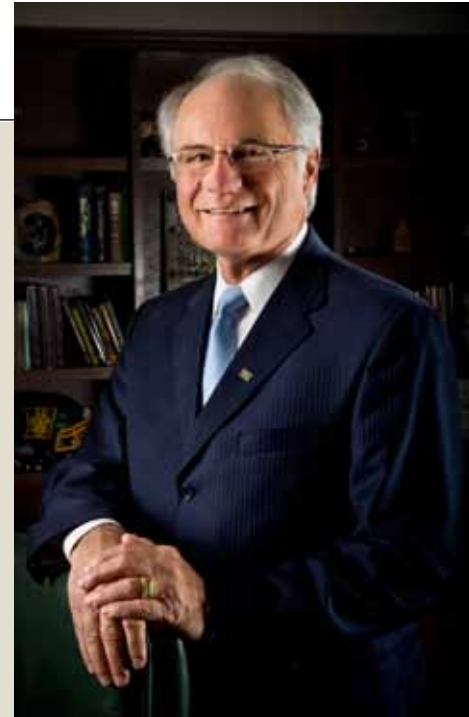
I appreciate the contributions of all of our alumni and enjoy finding out
about your latest accomplishments. Please let us know what you have
been up to by visiting www.wright.edu/community, our new website for
Community magazine. Submit your AlumNotes online and share with us your
ideas for future stories in *Community*.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards from campus,



DAVID R. HOPKINS
PRESIDENT
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY



INSIDE Community

COVER STORIES

2 THE PUZZLE OF AUTISM: WRIGHT STATE ALUMNI ARE HELPING PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER

Prominent Cleveland Clinic psychologists and Wright State graduates Vanessa Jensen and Catherine Gaw give hope and help to families affected by autism.

6 AN OCEAN OF LOVE: ONE FAMILY'S TRIUMPHS AND TRIBULATIONS WITH AUTISM

A family with three autistic children shares their story of heartbreak, strength, and joy.

FEATURES

10 WARRIOR-SAINT

Wright State graduate Tejdeep Singh Rattan, '01 and '05, makes American military history as the first Sikh officer to serve in the U.S. Army in more than two decades.

12 COMPANY MAN

Don Myers '83 has catapulted himself to a top spot in the electronics industry and helped smaller companies grow to big ones along the way.

14 A JOB HUNTER'S BEST FRIEND

When Andrea Foy '87 took a part-time retail job to help finance the purchase of a home, little did she know that it would inspire her first book.

16 HOMEGROWN MOVIE

Filmed entirely on location in Dayton, family drama and supernatural thriller *True Nature* is the brainchild of motion picture graduates Patrick Steele and Ann Rotolante.

18 SCENTS AND SENSIBILITY

A Wright State graduate student uses creative thinking—and packaging—to finance his master's degree.

20 A WRIGHT STATE TREASURE

After more than 30 years of educating young minds, retired accounting professor John Talbott continues to touch the lives of Wright State alumni.

22 NATURE'S KIDNEYS

A project between Wright State University and the Air Force Institute of Technology looks at how wetlands can clean up contaminants in our soil and water.

DEPARTMENTS

24 DEVELOPMENT NEWS

26 ALUMNOTES

30 ATHLETICS





The Puzzle of Autism: Wright State Alumni

By Jim Hannah

Are Helping Put the Pieces Together

STUFFED RABBITS AND TEDDY BEARS are scattered around her room. Drawings of stick children, flowers, and sunshine beam from a blackboard.

But Vanessa Jensen, Psy.D., is not a school teacher. The Wright State University School of Professional Psychology graduate is a pediatric psychologist—a good one. Throughout her nearly 20 years at the Cleveland Clinic, her office has been splashdown for patients who fly in from as far away as Egypt, Ireland, and Japan.

Jensen diagnoses and treats children with autism, a neuro-development disorder that can short-circuit communication, cripple social interaction, and result in repetitive behavior such as hand flapping, spinning, and rocking. Milder versions of

the disorder result in less obvious, but still interfering, symptoms.

At the Cleveland Clinic, Jensen and fellow Wright State graduate Catherine Gaw, Psy.D., deliver a powerful one-two punch to this disorder, which can financially and emotionally bankrupt families struggling to understand and deal with its mysteries.

Gaw specializes in treating children and teens on the autism spectrum within the higher-functioning range. They have a form of autism called Asperger's Disorder, characterized by at least an average IQ, normal language development, and an interest in having friends.

"What intrigues me the most is that these are really smart, talented people who have a different way of thinking about things than those of us who do

not have Asperger's Disorder," Gaw said. "For me, the treatment is not so much about making them 'normal,' but helping them speak and understand the social language and cognitions of neurotypicals in order to effectively connect and to not feel isolated in their differentness."

Both Jensen and Gaw credit Wright State and the School of Professional Psychology (SOPP) with giving them the skills and the in-depth experiences with patients to outdistance many of their peers from other schools as they launched their careers.

"SOPP had this intense program that gave you a nice blend of intensity and breadth and depth," said Jensen, who graduated from Wright State in 1986. "As a group, we seemed much more experienced, had much more practical knowledge, and were more comfortable with a variety of patients."

Gaw, president of the Ohio Psychological Association, graduated from the SOPP in 1988. "I felt like we had an amazing education and a lot of hands-on experience at the time," she said. "This was confirmed by what I read while reviewing psychology intern applications for our internship site."



Wright State graduates **Catherine Gaw, Psy.D.**, right, and **Vanessa Jensen, Psy.D.**, below left, diagnose and treat children with autism at the Cleveland Clinic. Stuffed animals are sometimes used to help in interactions with children.

Among Jensen's early patients at the Cleveland Clinic were the children of "VIPs" who hailed from other states and countries, initially coming to the clinic for heart surgery or other treatments. The core "gaggle of families" struggling with autism that Jensen cared for grew, eventually leading to a specialized autism center and autism school at the Cleveland Clinic.

Jensen, who typically has a waiting list of six to 12 months, usually handles specialized cases of children with autism and/or related disorders. They are often those who have been previously diagnosed, have had several different diagnoses, and/or require a more intensive evaluation.

Some of them fly in once a year for their annual check-up. Others are seen more often to address the wide range of problems and challenges in this population.

Twenty-five years ago, the incidence of autism was pegged at about one in 5,000. Today, experts estimate that three to six children out of 1,000 will have autism, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Jensen said the diagnosis has been expanded to include a spectrum of disorders that also affect highly intelligent, high-functioning individuals. But she also believes there are more cases of autism. More recent estimates suggest that the incidence of autism spectrum disorders is approximately 1 percent of children in the United States.

Autism affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Males are four times more likely to have it than females.

One-year-olds with classic autism often won't look at or acknowledge a person who comes into a room, nor wave or smile when their name is called. By age two or three, they may be flapping their hands, rocking back and forth, spinning around, flipping papers, and staring at little pieces of things.

Children with Asperger's Disorder often demonstrate a "social disconnect." They may respond to a question with a comment about a totally unrelated



subject and often don't engage in conversation by asking questions of their questioner. With "little professor" personalities, they can sometimes spew out rivers of information about dinosaurs or other things that interest them.

"I've had patients obsessed with all types of topics, from vacuum cleaners to NFL kickers to port-o-potties," Jensen said. "One boy knew every brand of port-o-potty that existed."

Jensen said some children with Asperger's Disorder have the skills to fit in with their peers, especially if they are intellectually capable students in good schools, have good parenting, and avoid the glare of the spotlight.

But children with Asperger's Disorder are at risk of depression. Between third and fourth grades, in middle school, and during young adulthood are "times when these kids can really feel alone in the world," Gaw said.

Gaw was first introduced to children with Asperger's Disorder when she was a staff psychologist in the children's unit of the state hospital in Madison, Wisconsin—a time when the profession

was just beginning to more clearly identify the cluster of symptoms as a pervasive developmental disorder.

Wobbly stacks of books, journals, and papers give Gaw's office a scholarly feel. But a Mrs. Potato Head and an array of other play materials provide children a familiar point around which to interact.

Gaw believes the public needs to be better educated about autism to keep people with Asperger's Disorder from being labeled as intentionally rude, uninterested, defiant, or intrusive.

Gaw said people with autism are like everyone else in that they they have their own unique personalities.

"They are very compassionate, caring people who don't naturally have the ability to

empathically understand other people," she said. "They have to work really hard to develop the social cognition skills to effectively understand another person's perspective and engage with them."

People with autism also sometimes don't have the social cognition skills necessary to enable them to reach their full potential in the workplace, Gaw said. For example, people with

Twenty-five years ago, the incidence of autism was pegged at about one in 5,000. Today, experts estimate that three to six children out of 1,000 will have autism, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.



Asperger's Disorder do not easily comprehend figures of speech and implications of statements. That can mean miscommunication and misunderstanding.

As a result of appearing socially inept and overreactive, they often get stuck in jobs for which they are overqualified, Gaw said. Their areas of specialized intelligence and skills become their hobbies.

"We need to work harder to more effectively engage these individuals in order to allow them to most meaningfully contribute," she said.

Scientists aren't certain exactly what causes autism. But according to research, there is a strong genetic

component and the environment may play a part. Researchers have identified a number of genes associated with autism, and studies of people with autism have found irregularities in several regions of the brain.

Jensen believes it will eventually be determined that autism is a neuro-genetic disorder. She said there is no conclusive evidence at this time that autism is caused by something in the environment, in vaccinations, or in food.

One theory on why there are more diagnosed autism cases is that babies with genetic or developmental anomalies who may have died in the past are surviving because of improved pre-natal care.

Another theory, Jensen said, is that high-functioning autistic children weren't diagnosed in the past, but now that they are adults, some of their children

are. Also, she said, some people are having children later in life, which has been shown to increase the risk of having a child with autism.

"I think it's all of the above," she said.

Researchers in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Wright State's Boonshoft

School of Medicine have a track record in studies of autism. The work of Mariana Morris, Ph.D., and David Cool, Ph.D., has focused on the role of the so-called "love hormone"—oxytocin—in autism using human and animal models.

Jensen said early diagnosis is critical in successfully treating children in the autistic spectrum. The child's pediatrician is usually in the best position to recognize early signs and refer for formal diagnosis.

"Kids with autism tend to develop habits very quickly. If they begin self-stimulatory behaviors—the rocking or spinning—the more they do it, the more they are likely to do it," Jensen said. "Without early intervention, by age eight you've still got new things to teach and a lot of bad habits to undo."

The Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be screened for autism beginning at nine months. Jensen said about half of the children who have autism can be diagnosed by 15 to 18 months of age. At two years old, 75 percent can be diagnosed, and by age three, most can be diagnosed.

There is no known cure for autism. Treatment or intervention involves teaching autistic children a range of specific skills through behavioral and cognitive behavioral interventions.

Behavioral skills, such as making eye contact, are taught so the children can behave more appropriately for their ages. They are also taught social cognition skills, such as understanding that their actions cause others to form opinions about them that may not match their intent. Social cognition skills enable people with autism to more easily understand the world around them and conform to conventional expectations at school and in the workplace.

"Behavioral treatment initially teaches them in a very drill-like, repetitive way and then gradually shapes behavior to be more functional," Jensen said. "It's very labor intensive."

Gaw reassures parents that people with autism can be very successful and productive, have rewarding careers, raise families, and be healthy and happy. "There isn't anything hopeless about it."

Such intervention can involve a team of specialists spending up to 40 hours a week over three years with a child at an annual cost of as much as \$70,000. Many insurances don't cover autism treatment.

Research shows that with such intervention, up to 50 percent of those children can function much like typical kids by age eight, Jensen said. Without it, fewer than 1 percent would get there. And it's much more difficult, but clearly not impossible, to make progress after around age eight, she said.

Interventions in social cognition skills can begin being taught effectively at preschool ages. The intention is to broaden the child's perspective from that of literal and goal-driven to that of cognitive flexibility and the enjoyment of companionship within the activities.

People with autism are also starting to use new technologies to develop social skills and venture out of their isolation.

"iPods, robots, and virtual-reality avatars are engaging, predictable, non-threatening, and forgiving," said Katharina Boser, Ph.D., co-chair of Innovative Tech for Autism, an initiative of the advocacy group Autism Speaks. "These technologies help children with autism build communication skills in a low-risk environment."

In Xenia, Ohio, workers at Greene Inc.—which is affiliated with the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities and provides vocational and habilitation services—have created several rooms designed to help people with autism make progress in life skills and reduce behavior problems.

The Cloud Nine room, for example, features soft colorful lighting, soothing music, an underwater video display, and twinkling, starlike ceiling lights. The Snoezelen room—with its luminescent liquid-filled columns of blue and green bubbles and its ropy tangles of glowing orange and yellow plastic—is designed to soothe and calm by controlled stimulation.

"The interaction in the autism rooms encourages each individual to increase his or her independence," said Molly McCullough, who is among a handful of Wright State graduates who work at the facility.

Jeanne Turner, adult day services manager, said the autistic clients have made great strides since the rooms were opened in November and that more rooms are planned because of demand.

The public's understanding of autism is important as autistic children grow into adulthood and increasingly interact with the outside world.

Autism expert Dennis Debbaudt crosses the country giving training seminars to police departments to help officers identify and safely interact with autistic people and avoid misunderstandings that could result in unwarranted use of force.

"You could make a misjudgment and think that they're high or drunk or having a mental-health episode, none of which would be true," said Debbaudt, who has authored a book on autism, more than 30 reports, and produced training videos.

Debbaudt said requests for such

training are on the rise. He urges officers to make sure their communications to an autistic person are clear and simple, to avoid the use of slang or body language that could be misunderstood, and to minimize noise from sirens or two-way radios that could trigger a fight-or-flight response.

When parents learn that their child has autism, it can be emotionally traumatic, especially in cases of severe autism. Visions of their children leading normal, conventional lives can begin to evaporate.

"There's a loss," Jensen said. "You're now being told that odds are, many of the things you dreamed of for your child are not going to happen. There's a grieving for what you thought you'd have."

Some parents wonder if they are to blame, if they did something wrong during pregnancy, for example. Jensen assures them it was nothing they did. And she said there are many support groups, county programs, professionals, and other systems in place to help parents not feel alone.

Jensen said there are also an increasing number of psychiatric medicines that help the symptoms of autism, especially in cases of aggressive behavior or hyperactivity.

"They have made a tremendous difference in the lives of a lot of the kids I see, especially the more severely impaired," she said.

Gaw said she reassures parents that people with autism can be very successful and productive, have rewarding careers, raise families, and be healthy and happy.

"There isn't anything hopeless about it." ❏



Bill Ford (left), Wright State graduate **Molly McCullough** (center), and **Jason Byrd** (right) work at Greene Inc., which has built several rooms, including the Snoezelen room (far left), designed to help people with autism make progress in life skills. Photo of Snoezelen room by Mike Miller.

AN OCEAN OF LOVE

One family's triumphs and tribulations with autism

By Jim Hannah

A BICYCLE LOCK secures the gate of the white picket fence that rings Sophia Augier's backyard in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. And the doors of her house in this Cleveland suburb are wired to buzz if someone leaves.

For the 45-year-old single mother, raising a severely autistic child and keeping him safe means never-look-away vigilance. Allowing him to wander from home and get lost or struck by a car is a constant fear. She can't let her guard down. Not once. Not ever.

Raising such a child takes a vast reservoir of love and patience. Augier has an ocean of both. It's a good thing, because she has more than one child with severe autism. She has three.

"We've had times when somebody has gotten out, and I don't know where they are," she said. "It's an awful thing. It's an incredibly sickening feeling to know somebody's missing. They don't have any safety awareness."

Webster's dictionary defines autism as absorption in self-centered mental activity, especially when accompanied by withdrawal from reality. It is a neuro-developmental disorder that can cripple the ability to communicate, leaving a person disconnected and isolated from the outside world. Symptoms can also include repetitive behavior such as hand flapping, spinning, and rocking.

Augier takes the challenge of raising her three sons with autism in stride. She fights any temptation to feel sorry for herself. And the radiating love she has for 12-year-old Marcel and 10-year-old twins Henri and Christophe warms the family home like a roaring fire on a cold winter's day.

But nothing prepared Augier for the diagnosis, which brought the former high-flying corporate executive for Spiegel catalog in Chicago crashing down to earth.

As she sat in the Cleveland Clinic nine years ago when her oldest son was being evaluated for autism, Augier went numb. Many of the same symptoms were being ticked off by the psychologist being displayed not only by Marcel, but also by her younger twin sons. And she knew. She knew instantly and instinctively that they too were autistic.



Sophia Augier gives a hug to her children: (from left to right) Christophe, Henri, Marcel, and Margaux.

Augier and her children gather around Parker, the family's dog, in the front yard of their Chagrin Falls, Ohio, home.



The alarm bells had been deafening. At age two, Marcel began running wild, “like a banshee.” His language began to regress, he ignored one-step instructions and the children in his play group, wouldn’t show that he recognized people he knew,

became obsessed with stacking toy blocks, and would throw tantrums whenever his mother tried to take him anywhere.

“He started getting up in the middle of the night and shaking his head and talking in these almost tongues,” Augier recalled. “It was frightening.”

At restaurants, Henri would ignore his meal and just stare at the ceiling lights. At home, he would clear out the kitchen cabinets and crawl inside of them.

Christophe once spent 15 minutes staring through the tiny tunnel formed by a flipped-open magazine on the coffee table.

Augier’s children were diagnosed by Vanessa Jensen, Psy.D., a Wright State University graduate and pediatric psychologist at the Cleveland Clinic who has built an impressive, international practice diagnosing and treating autism.

“Our initial diagnosis meetings with Vanessa were really tough. We cried a lot,” Augier recalled. “That has to be tough for her, too, to sit across the table and deliver the worst news someone has ever heard in their life.”

Augier said Jensen was very professional but not institutional in her diagnosis and counseling.

“It came with compassion, and it came with healing,” Augier said. “And she has pretty much stuck with our family. It’s very comforting to know you can call someone and have that expertise at your fingertips. She’s pretty terrific.”



Today, all three boys remain severely autistic. But because of scientifically based early intervention, including intensive speech and behavioral therapy, they have good skills for children who have been diagnosed with such severe autism.

They are toilet trained, can dress themselves, and can follow a few directions that are embedded in a routine. But they remain behind in academics, it takes them a long time to learn one task, and they still fail to understand the social implications of their behavior.

The boys’ progress is largely a credit to Augier, who threw herself into it with a fury.

“We had to rethink everything, rethink how we parent,” she said. “We had to learn all of the prompting skills. If it’s attention-seeking behavior, you ignore it. If it’s a problem-solving behavior, you teach it.”

Augier focuses on skills the boys can use when they grow up.

“Teaching them duck-duck-goose for six years isn’t going to help them when they’re 18 to 55,” she said. “We’ve taught them how to swim, rollerblade, and



walk appropriately to the park and enjoy things that an adult would enjoy.”

Structure is critical to her sons’ progress. They are expected to take out the trash and load and empty the dishwasher. Augier pushes the kids constantly. Progress and milestones are wildly celebrated with cupcake parties or trips to McDonald’s.

The family is often warmly embraced when out in public.

A stranger at the zoo once helped retrieve one of the boys from the men’s room, where he was repeatedly washing his hands. Workers at the neighborhood grocery store raced to get shopping carts for the family when the children were young, and they brought the groceries to the car so Augier could load up the kids.

But sometimes the family gets a frosty reception in public places, with people telling Augier her children don’t belong there.

“That’s tough. It hurts,” she said. “They have a right just like everybody else.”

The boys go to school at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism. And Augier currently has three tutors to help with the children at home. The tutors, who are college students or graduates, work with the boys on both academics and life skills. They are an integral part of helping things run smoothly.

Augier had feared that the baby she was carrying when her oldest son was diagnosed would also have autism. She did not.

Today, the precocious nine-year-old blonde with the sunny smile is an important part of making the Augier household as happy and healthy as it is. Margaux and a curly, black-furred Labradoodle named Parker—a service dog from WAGS4kids.org—spread joy that swirls and eddies throughout the home.

Augier says having brothers with autism has made Margaux more compassionate.

“She’s the first student to help another student. She’s the first person to compliment another student on a hard task and give positive feedback,” Augier said. “It makes me proud. It makes me sad at the same time because she’s had to experience this.

But it makes me happy because she is going to be a much better person because of this.”

Augier has deliberately shielded Margaux from the burden of helping care for her brothers.

“I don’t make her the mom. I don’t make her the babysitter. I don’t make her the tutor,” Augier said.

“I want her to have

as wonderful a life as she can because when I’m gone it’s going to be her responsibility.”

Augier acknowledges that the grueling routine can be mentally and physically exhausting. It’s especially hard when the boys have trouble sleeping, and she is up half the night.

“It’s almost like I’ve got two things turning in my brain at all times: my own life—the grocery store, the cleaning, whatever,” she said. “The other film reel is: ‘Where are my kids going? What are they doing? Who’s making that noise?’ Keeping a visual and a hearing check on everybody.”

But Augier says autism has brought the family closer together and delivered some other unexpected benefits.

“It’s almost like I’ve got two things turning in my brain at all times: my own life—the grocery store, the cleaning, whatever. The other film reel is: ‘Where are my kids going? What are they doing?’ Keeping a visual and hearing check on everybody.”

—SOPHIA AUGIER

Christophe (left), Henri (center), and Marcel in their backyard. All three boys have severe autism, but because of early intervention have good skills considering the severity of their disorder.

"When I'm down I think, 'Why? Why? This is so hard,'" she said. "But there's a reason. And it's made me a much better person. It's made me much more patient. It's made me much more compassionate."

It's very challenging for the boys to make friends. Their limited language skills make it difficult for them to hold a conversation. And children their age usually don't have the patience.

Medicines to treat the boys' symptoms have been a mixed bag.

"We have had some successes with some medications. Others have been disastrous," Augier said.

Caring for the boys has been financially crushing. In paying for tutors and otherwise taking care of the boys, Augier exhausted the nest egg she built up from her years at Spiegel. Today, she gets some help from the county but could not survive without the financial support of her parents and sisters.

Augier gets a call about once a month from families who have just had a child diagnosed with autism. She advises them to immediately get started on intensive speech and behavioral therapy.

"My philosophy now is if I can help these families who call me and put my skills and my heart into it, then I think I'm doing a good job and paying back," she said.

Augier would like the government to put more funding into educating autistic students and for research to find a cure for autism.

"If kids were dying from autism, we would have had a cure by now. That's frustrating," she said. "I think we've done a good job with awareness. Now we need action. Let's do something for these children." ❏



Wright State graduate is the first Sikh in two decades to serve in the U.S. Army

Warrior-Saint

By Stephanie Gottschlich

WHEN CAPTAIN TEJDEEP SINGH RATTAN, '01 AND '05, became a U.S. Army officer on March 22, 2010, he made American military history as the first Sikh officer to serve in the Army in more than two decades.

He also made headlines as images of him standing among the ranks of soldiers in standard-issue fatigues—donning his unshorn beard and distinct black turban—during the officer graduation ceremony at Fort Sam Houston spread across the globe via CNN, *The New York Times*, and Google. The next day, CNN named him “Most Intriguing Person of the Day.”

Rattan earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Wright State in 2001, then graduated with his Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering in 2005. He also earned an M.B.A.

When Rattan graduated from the Army's nine-week basic officer training with the “articles” of his Sikh faith—unshorn hair and beard and turban—intact, he overcame a barrier that has essentially kept Sikhs out of the Army since 1984.

“I am committed to being a good American. I've sworn my allegiance to this country, and now I serve it,” said Rattan, 31, a dentist assigned to serve

in the dental corps at Fort Drum, New York. “I knew I needed to assimilate, but cutting my beard and showing my hair is not an option.”

An uncut beard and hair and turban are among required articles of the Sikh faith, keeping Sikhs in the natural state in which God created them.

Observant Sikhs had served in the Army since World War I, until 1984, when the Army eliminated an exception for Sikhs and others who wore conspicuous religious articles, according to the Army's website. Their beards and turbans created safety hazards, the Army said.

Rattan wore his beard and turban throughout dental school and his participation in the military Health Professionals Scholarship program, but was told to ditch them before joining the officer corps.

A letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, signed by 49 members of Congress and backed by several Sikh organizations, helped persuade the Army to grant an exception in December 2009. The Army grants exceptions

on a case-by-case basis, it says.

Rattan proved he could overcome the Army's safety objections to the religious articles.

“I am trying to the best of my ability to get the message across about Sikhs. If what I do educates just one additional person, and they educate another person, then I can help create a better world for Sikhs.”

—TEJDEEP SINGH RATTAN



“The issue was fitting my Kevlar helmet over my large turban and properly fitting a gas mask on my face to create a tight seal,” he said.

At his own expense, he created a fatigue-color turban with the Army insignia and wears it in place of the Army patrol cap. Under the Kevlar helmet, he wears a “mini-turban.”

For the gas mask, Sikhs who had served in the Indian Army showed him how to create a seal using Vaseline. He then withstood 10 minutes in a gas chamber during the nuclear, chemical, and biological portion of his training, emerging triumphantly from the chamber.

“It was a challenge and I felt like a warrior,” Rattan said.

The “warrior-saint” at Wright State

Being a “warrior-saint” is ingrained in Sikh culture, in which a primary tenet of their faith is fighting injustice.

Sikhs have a rich history of military service going back 500 years in India, from where most Sikhs have emigrated,



U.S. Army Capt. Tejdeep Singh Rattan (center), wearing turban, stands with other graduates during a U.S. Army officer basic training graduation ceremony at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio in March. Capt. Rattan is the first Sikh allowed to complete officer basic training while wearing the traditional turban and full beard since 1984.
AP Photo/Darren Abate

“One of the things I learned at Wright State is that change comes from the top,” he said.

So Rattan became president of the Asian Student Association in 2003, and with the help of the Asian/Hispanic/ Native American Center, organized the first Sikh Cultural Exhibition and celebrated the Sikh New Year, Vaisakhi. He also participated in Wright State’s annual Quest for Community conference, presenting on his faith with members of the Dayton-area Sikh community. Rattan was given a Graduate Student Achievement award in 2003.

During the 2004 International Friendship Affair, he demonstrated turban-tying, the artful process in which male Sikhs bind their hair in turbans. Students lined up for the chance to wear a turban, and some wore them all day to their classes.

That year Rattan also carried the American flag during the IFA’s ritual flag parade. “I was asked to carry the flag for India, but I said, ‘I’m an American, I’ll carry the American flag,’” he explained.

Serving in the Army to pay back the United States

Rattan was born in Amritsar in the Punjab state of India, Sikhism’s historic homeland and site of its holiest temple. Of the 1.5 million Indians in Amritsar, about 74 percent are Sikh.

He immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of 17, and is an American citizen.

“One of the stepping stones in my life was Wright State’s Dunbar Library reference department,” Rattan said. “They gave me a job and guidance during a time when I was not so serious. Ran Raider and Cheryl Lauricella made a huge impact.”

as well as other countries, such as the United Kingdom, according to the advocacy group United Sikhs.

For Rattan, being a warrior-saint means dedicating himself to countering bias and prejudice against Sikhs in the United States—a mission that started at Wright State in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In the months following 9/11, Sikhs across the United States were experiencing acts of violence as they were mistaken for members of the Taliban, because their beards and turbans resembled those of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda followers.

“Sikhs were experiencing a case of mistaken identity,” Rattan said. “People don’t understand that we have nothing in common with Islamic extremists, and while Sikhs have been living in this country for decades, all of a sudden we were very visible.”

Rattan rallied with the local Sikh community to increase awareness of their faith and how they differ from the Taliban.

Raider, government and legal information coordinator for the University Libraries, said Rattan left a lasting impression on staff members during his six-year stint as a library student assistant.

“He was very dedicated, almost maniacal, about his studies. He always finished everything he said he was going to do. And his commitment to educating people about his faith is extraordinary,” Raider said. “He wanted people to understand who Sikhs are.”

Rattan’s joining the Army is his way of paying back and continuing to fulfill his missions of educating others about Sikhs and of serving mankind.

“The United States is one of the best countries in the world. It gave me an incredible education and a world of opportunity, and I have to pay that back. The way to do that is to serve,” he said. “And being a warrior-saint, that means serving in the Army.”

“I am trying to the best of my ability to get the message across about Sikhs,” Rattan said. “If what I do educates just one additional person, and they educate another person, then I can help create a better world for Sikhs.”

SIKH FACTS:

- There are 25 million Sikhs worldwide, making it the fifth largest religion after Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.
- It has been in existence for more than 500 years.
- About 300,000 Sikhs live in the United States.
- While Sikhs make up 2 percent of India’s population, they make up 30 percent of its military.
- Sikhs follow strict traditions for dress, including a Dastar (turban) for their unshorn hair (Kesh); a steel bracelet (Kara) that signifies devotion to truth; and a small knife, or sword (Kirpan), as a reminder to protect the weak and helpless.
- Sikhs believe in one supreme being and in the equality of all human beings, regardless of gender, religion, race, or social status.

SOURCE: UNITEDSIKHS.ORG

Electronics executive Don Myers '83 has a knack for helping turn smaller companies into big kids on the block

COMPANY MAN

By Jim Hannah

FOR A GUY WHO PREFERS WORKING FOR SMALLER COMPANIES, Don Myers has a problem. He helps turn them into big ones—really big ones.

Today, the 51-year-old Myers is senior vice president of corporate development for the Florida-based Jabil Circuit, Inc., a global electronics manufacturing giant that had \$12.7 billion in sales in 2009.

The Wright State University alumnus now swims with the big fish in the world of mergers and acquisitions. And he enjoys the fruits of his success, collecting both motorcycles and fine wines.

But it really doesn't seem all that long ago that Myers was laid off from his \$7-an-hour-job at the former Frigidaire plant in Dayton, Ohio, and spent more time partying with his buddies than building his future.

"I woke up one morning after nine months and said, 'This is going to kill me. I can't keep doing this,'" Myers recalled.

So Myers enrolled at Sinclair Community College, got his associate degree, and then in 1981 transferred to Wright State. He majored in marketing and worked as a proofreader in the university's word-processing department.

"By then I had gotten serious about school," he said. "At Wright State, I ended up doing really well."

However, when Myers graduated in 1983 times were tough and jobs were

scarce. So he followed his father to Huntsville, Alabama, and got a job with SCI Systems, which makes electronics products for the computer, aerospace, telecommunications, medical, and banking industries.

Within six months, Myers got promoted and was running the company's largest account. However, he was only making about half the salary of many of his colleagues.

So to double his pay, he moved across town and took a job with Avex Electronics, going from an established company doing \$500 million a year in revenue to a new one making only \$175 million.

At Avex, Myers was part of a company that worked on defense-related business and helped develop one of the first car phones outsourced to a U.S.-based manufacturer. Three years later, Avex was doing \$500 million in annual revenue.

But even though the company was having a lot of success, Myers still wasn't happy.

"The culture in the company had changed as we grew," Myers said. "I really wanted to get back into a small-company environment."

Myers recalled meeting some guys at a trade show a few years earlier who worked for Jabil. The company had fewer than 500 employees and about \$140 million a year in annual revenue. Jabil was looking for someone with industry experience to help find new business.

"More than anything, it [Wright State] helped me grow up. It taught me discipline at a time that I really needed it." —DON MYERS





So Myers hopped on board.

"Early on, it was hard not to have some successes because the electronics outsourcing industry was growing so fast," he said.

The culture at Jabil was unique.

Employees would mark the end of what was usually a grueling work week with "beer 30," a reference to the 4:30 p.m. time on Friday when they would stream out of the office to an adjacent lake. Coolers built into the docks were stocked with beer by the company.

"It was fun. We worked hard, and we played hard," Myers said.

Today, Jabil operates plants all over the world, has recently added capacity in India and China, and pumps out products around the clock. The company has diversified, expanding from telecommunications to include consumer electronics and products in the medical, defense, and aerospace industries.

"It's tougher now because competition has increased," Myers said. "We've just kind of stayed ahead of it by having a robust strategic planning process, reacting quickly to the changing environment, and reshaping our business when necessary."

Today Myers oversees mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, and other similar investments for the company.

"Probably the toughest thing right now is that we're in a macroeconomic environment where there are limited investment dollars," he said. "It costs a lot of money to go out and buy companies. Working in this environment, we need to do everything we can to reduce risk and ensure that the investments we are making have the best chance to maximize returns for our shareholders."

To escape the stresses of high finance, Myers loses himself in the unlikely combination of collecting fine wines and chrome horses.

"I have a bad motorcycle habit," he says with a chuckle. "I own four."

Myers credits Wright State with kick-starting his career by exposing him to the working world through group projects.

"But more than anything, it helped me grow up," he said of Wright State. "It taught me discipline at a time that I really needed it." ■

Wright State
graduate
writes a
how-to guide
for finding a
job in today's
economy

A Job Hunter's Best Friend

By Kim Patton

WHEN ANDREA FOY WAS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME RETAIL JOB to help offset the expenses of purchasing a house, she went to her job interview as the polished, professional woman she is. While waiting for a manager to interview her, she noticed a teenager wearing shorts and tennis shoes, slumped in a chair with her elbow on the table.

"I was thinking she's waiting for somebody else," Foy recalled. "When the store manager calls her name, she gets up, doesn't shake his hand, doesn't look him in the eye. I was flabbergasted by the whole thing."

Raised in a military family in Fairborn, Ohio, Foy was initially shocked by the young woman's unprofessional demeanor. Then she realized that this girl had never been taught how to act and dress appropriately in a work setting.

"I started to think about how I learned things and how some other people may have not had the same opportunities," said Foy. "It really bothered me. Here's one of the problems we have in society—some

people don't have jobs because they don't have the skills for the job. It's not that they can't learn; they just don't know how to get in the door."

Several months later, Foy began writing her first book, *Hire Power: How to Find, Get and Keep a Job*. While the book is geared toward 15- to 21-year-olds who are entering the job market for the first time, Foy's tips are helpful to anyone who is job searching. "You have the hire power. You are the one that controls whether you

get hired or not," said Foy.

Foy wrote *Hire Power* in 2008 and 2009 while working her full-time job as a senior associate analyst for the F-16

program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Through her work, she met a self-published writer who offered training for new writers interested in getting their work published. During these workshops, Foy also met Dayton publisher Valerie Coleman, who released *Hire Power* in February 2010.

Foy, who graduated from Wright State in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts in communication, said her English and communication professors were always supportive of her desire to write. "It was a very encouraging atmosphere," she recalled. "I always wanted to write, but life took over right away."

After graduation, Foy worked briefly as a sales manager for Sears and then spent five years traveling the world as a flight attendant, until she developed vertigo and could no longer fly. After working for American Express in Minneapolis, she returned home to Dayton, where she has worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base since 2002.

Foy hopes to write a second book next year for employers on how to find and keep good employees. With full-time writing as her ultimate goal, she would also like to try her hand at fiction. "There will definitely be more books," she said. ■

"You have the hire power. You are the one that controls whether you get hired or not."

—ANDREA FOY



Tips for Today's Job Hunter

Whether you're a recent college graduate, currently unemployed, or thinking about changing career paths, Foy shared some advice for finding the right opportunity in today's job market.

Interested in changing careers?

While you're at your current job, explore what you want to do. Foy cautions against jumping into a new career too quickly if you don't have an economic anchor. "See if you're good at it," advised Foy. "You might think it's your calling, but it might not be. It's always good to dream and do something as a hobby first, then once you achieve some success at it do it full time."

Discouraged by a lengthy job search?

Don't take it personally and remember that this is a tough job market. "We are going through a rough patch. It's not permanent; we always bounce back," said Foy. "This is one of the best dreaming times. Go to the library; you can still learn. This is a time to find out who you are and what you really want to do. Now is the time to dream and prepare yourself."

Looking for your first job after college?

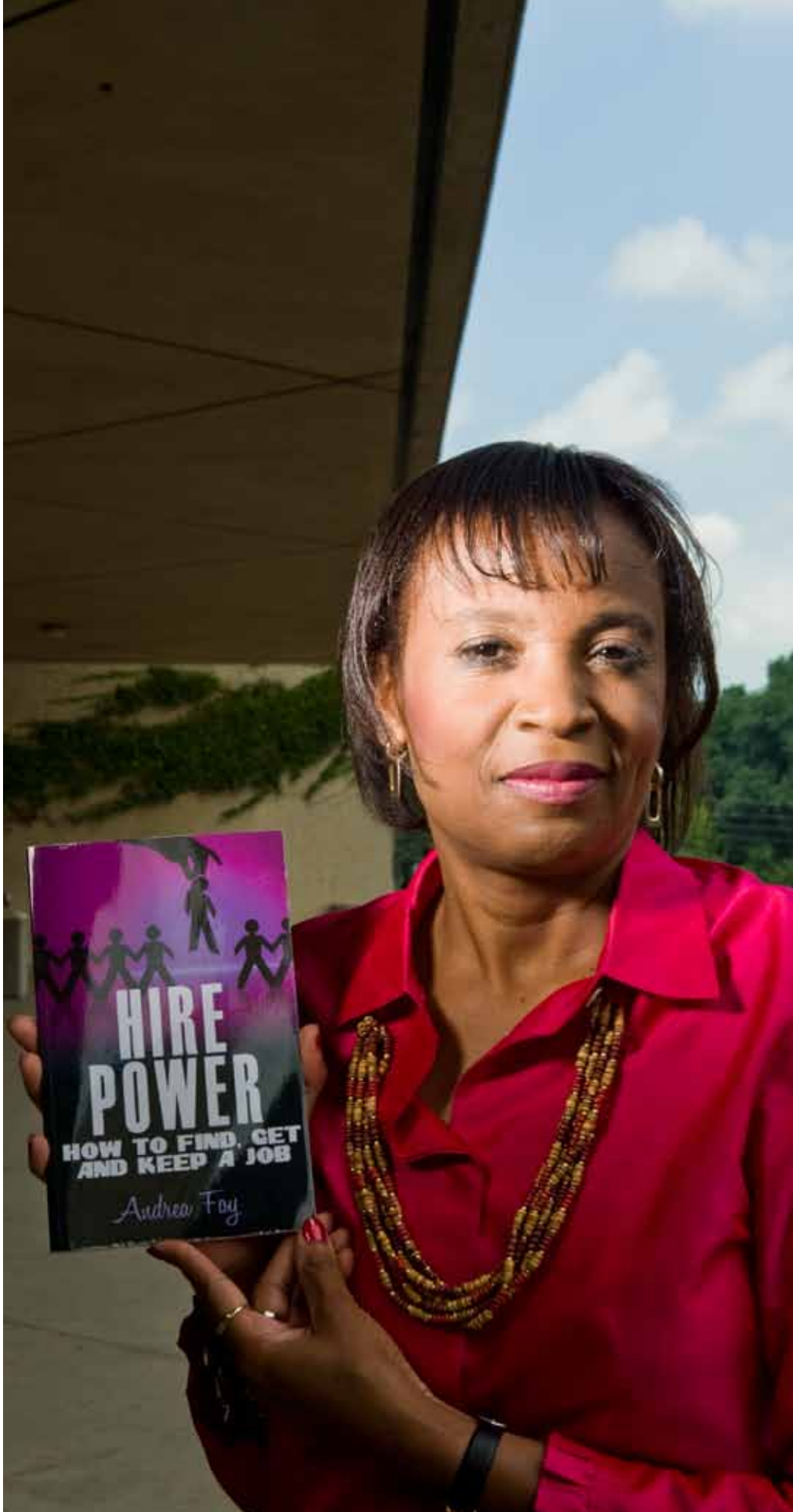
Think about why you got your degree and what you want to do with it. "Decide what is your passion. Do a lot of soul searching while you're looking for a job," Foy suggested. "Ask yourself: What will make me the happiest? What will make me want to get up at 6:00 in the morning, stay late at night, and work on the weekends?"

Losing the passion for what you do?

If you really don't like where you work or what you're doing or if you feel like you're not making a contribution, then it's time to make a change. To rekindle the passion, Foy advises people to "go back to your childhood and think about what you wanted to do when you grew up. What stopped you from being what that was?" Foy also suggests looking for "passion clues," such as: What really makes you happy? What do you like to do in your spare time? What are your hobbies?



Visit www.andreafoy.com for more information on *Hire Power: How to Find, Get and Keep a Job*.





Wright State
graduates
produce feature
film entirely
on location in
Dayton

Homegrown Movie

By Cory MacPherson

A young woman, missing for more than a year, mysteriously returns with no recollection of where she's been. Her wealthy family welcomes her home with open arms. Haunted by violent visions, she begins to suspect that her father is hiding dark secrets and that her disappearance is linked to his sordid business dealings. As the fragile web of lies unravels, she fears that her own life and sanity may be the price for discovering the truth.

This chilling story is the plotline of *True Nature*, a new film from Wright State University motion picture graduates Patrick Steele and Ann Rotolante. A gripping combination of family drama and supernatural thriller, *True Nature* questions the heavy price one family pays for their American dream.

"I wanted to comment on how the drive for success and material gain blinds us to the things that really matter and how we carry the burden of guilt for our actions," said Steele, who wrote and directed the film. "The American dream is a great notion, but what is one really willing to do to attain it?"

Steele graduated from Wright State in 1997 with a B.F.A. in motion picture production. He has taught courses at the university as an adjunct professor. Rotolante graduated with the same degree in 2009 after coming back to school as a non-traditional student to pursue her passion for movies.

Both filmmakers have experience in the industry. Rotolante worked with Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar on the Emmy Award-winning *A Lion in the House* and the Academy Award-nominated *The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant*. Steele worked as a film preservationist for the Library of Congress for 10 years and made four award-winning short films, all of which have screened at international and domestic film festivals.





After Rotolante produced Steele's *A Toss of the Coin*, the pair decided to collaborate on a longer venture. In 2004, they began to develop a full-length script. Filming began in 2007.

"We were at a point in our evolution as filmmakers where the next logical step was to do a feature film," said Steele. Over the next three years, Steele wrote the film in his spare time, bouncing ideas off of Rotolante, who edited and produced the film.

Ann Rotolante and **Patrick Steele** at Hook Estate in Dayton, where the majority of *True Nature* was shot.



Strong advocates of grassroots independent filmmaking in the Dayton area, they decided to make the entire movie in the Miami Valley. Most of the film's supplies were bought locally and most of the actors are from the midwest. Even the background music was sourced from Ohio-based musicians.

"Our intention from moment one was always to do something local," said Rotolante.

The majority of the film was shot at Hook Estate, the family home of co-

producer Beth Duke. The 26-room, Tudor Revival mansion became a character itself, according to Rotolante. Other Dayton-area locations included Kettering Tower, Square One Salon, the Schuster Center parking lot, and the former Pacchia restaurant in the Oregon District.

"Having the university here is a big asset. Wright State has an award-winning motion pictures program and that is a huge talent base to draw from. There are lots of students eager to learn and get experience," said Rotolante.

Steele and Rotolante used their Wright State connections to their advantage. More than 50 members of *True Nature's* cast and crew were Wright State students, alumni, or professors. Class of 2002 acting graduate Marianne Porter plays the lead role of Marianne, the girl whose disappearance and subsequent reappearance drives the film. Directors of Photography Evan Nesbitt and Marco Fagnoli graduated in 1989 and 1994, respectively, both with a B.F.A. in motion picture production.

"Involving people who have a connection to this area makes it more than just another gig," said Steele. "It becomes a labor of love for everyone."

Steele attributes much of his success to the motion pictures program at Wright State.

"They emphasize the importance of being a total filmmaker," he said. "Here, I was able to nurture my talents and ultimately flourish because of the individualized attention and the small community that we have, one that's very

dedicated to young filmmakers."

True Nature also stars Carolyn McCormick of the *Law and Order* television franchise. The film had a private sneak preview screening this past spring at the FilmDayton Festival to positive reviews. The next step for Steele and Rotolante is to submit the film to other festivals, both

in the United States and abroad. They are also in early negotiations with a well-respected sales company that will help *True Nature* find worldwide distribution.

"I just think the world of Ann and Patrick," said Julia Reichert, a Wright State film professor and award-winning filmmaker. "They are wonderful people and they've made an excellent film. It's a real testament to what we can do here in Ohio."

"I'm very proud of it," said Steele. "It's a film that takes the audience on a serious ride." ■

"Involving people who have a connection to this area makes it more than just another gig. It becomes a labor of love for everyone."

—PATRICK STEELE



Visit www.wright.edu/community to watch the trailer for *True Nature*.



Wright State student paves the way to his master's degree with his own line of vegan soaps

SCENTS

WHEN HIS JOB WAS PUT ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK, graphic designer Stephen Rumbaugh considered his options for the future. He'd always wanted to pursue his master's degree, and he now could do so full time—if he had a steady stream of income. Rumbaugh thought back to a book he read in the early '90s on soap making and sensed an opportunity.

"I've always liked things that are a little different, unique. Growing up, I used to hate the grocery store soap in our house," recalled Rumbaugh. So the experiment began. He enrolled in the Master of Humanities program at Wright State University and tried to offset his costs through his new homemade soaps, which he dubbed Society Bodycare: Bodycare for The People.

The inspiration behind the name came as Rumbaugh was walking through the Fashion Show Mall in Las Vegas. "It suddenly occurred to me that all levels of society need soap—that and food, right?" he joked.

Deciding to use his 2009 tax return on all the necessary equipment, Rumbaugh headed to a public library to research what would be needed. The library was about to throw away a stack of unused 1040 tax forms, when he had another "a-ha!" moment. He would package his soap bars with recyclable items that people use as members of society—from old tax forms to phone book pages—and finish them off with his own label design. With the name,

Graduate student Stephen Rumbaugh takes pride in his all-natural soaps and unique product packaging designs.



By Katie Halberg

& SENSIBILITY

equipment, and packaging all accounted for, he just needed to make his product.

The first batch was a self-proclaimed disaster. "It's not like making cookies," he quipped. "A lot of trouble goes into making a batch of soap. All the elements have to be aligned properly." He found his niche in making all-vegan soaps that, with the exception of lye, are made from edible ingredients, like oils and herbs.

From his Yellow Springs, Ohio, home, Rumbaugh brews not only a steady line of income, but also the foundation for his master's project. Inspired by his participation in a service-learning class at Wright State, Rumbaugh met with Wright State associate professor Jennifer Subban and assistant professors Erin Flanagan and Sarah Twill about developing a humanitarian angle for his product. With the success of his product line, he wanted to find a way to give back to the greater good.

Twill noted during their brainstorming that people who qualify to receive food stamps are unable to use those for personal hygiene products. "The social need for these items is just tremendous," said Twill. "I mentioned that some of the soaps could go to homeless shelters, domestic violence programs, food

pantries, and after-school programs that assist youth from low-income families. The possibilities are endless." Twill, Flanagan, and Subban are now serving as Rumbaugh's master's project advisors.

"I'm very excited about the potential of helping others through my soaps," said Rumbaugh, who expects to

complete his master's degree at the close of 2010.

"I wasn't sure if this was even going to work, but it's actually been very successful, especially around Christmas. I've been able to pay for much of my tuition and books through the income it's generated. It's hard though, because my focus needs to remain on my

education, so I can't dedicate as much time and energy as I would like to on Society Bodycare. I hope to be able to devote more time to it as I really develop my master's project."

Over the next six months, Rumbaugh looks to add more-distinctive labels to each of his soap "flavors," exploring a color-coded system for the bar wraps. "I think that will make it more user friendly, and make the different soaps really stand out," he explained. ☐

THE LIBRARY
WAS ABOUT TO
THROW AWAY A
STACK OF UNUSED
1040 TAX FORMS,
WHEN HE HAD
ANOTHER "A-HA!"
MOMENT.

"Inspired by a traditional English remedy for soothing aching and tired muscles, I designed this bar using mustard powder for color and a stimulating punch, cracked mustard seeds as a light exfoliant, eucalyptus essential oil for a rejuvenating blast, some hemp oil for extra moisturizing, and a bit of litsea essential oil for a lemony, citrusy zing. The mustard, which is excellent for circulation and calming rashes and minor skin issues, mixes with golden oils to create a beautiful shade of deep yellow. Wrapped in a genuine, repurposed page from—what else—the yellow pages. It only makes sense to name this bar after the town Society calls home."

—Yellow Springs Bar description, www.societybodycare.com



Visit www.wright.edu/community to see how Rumbaugh makes his distinctive soaps.

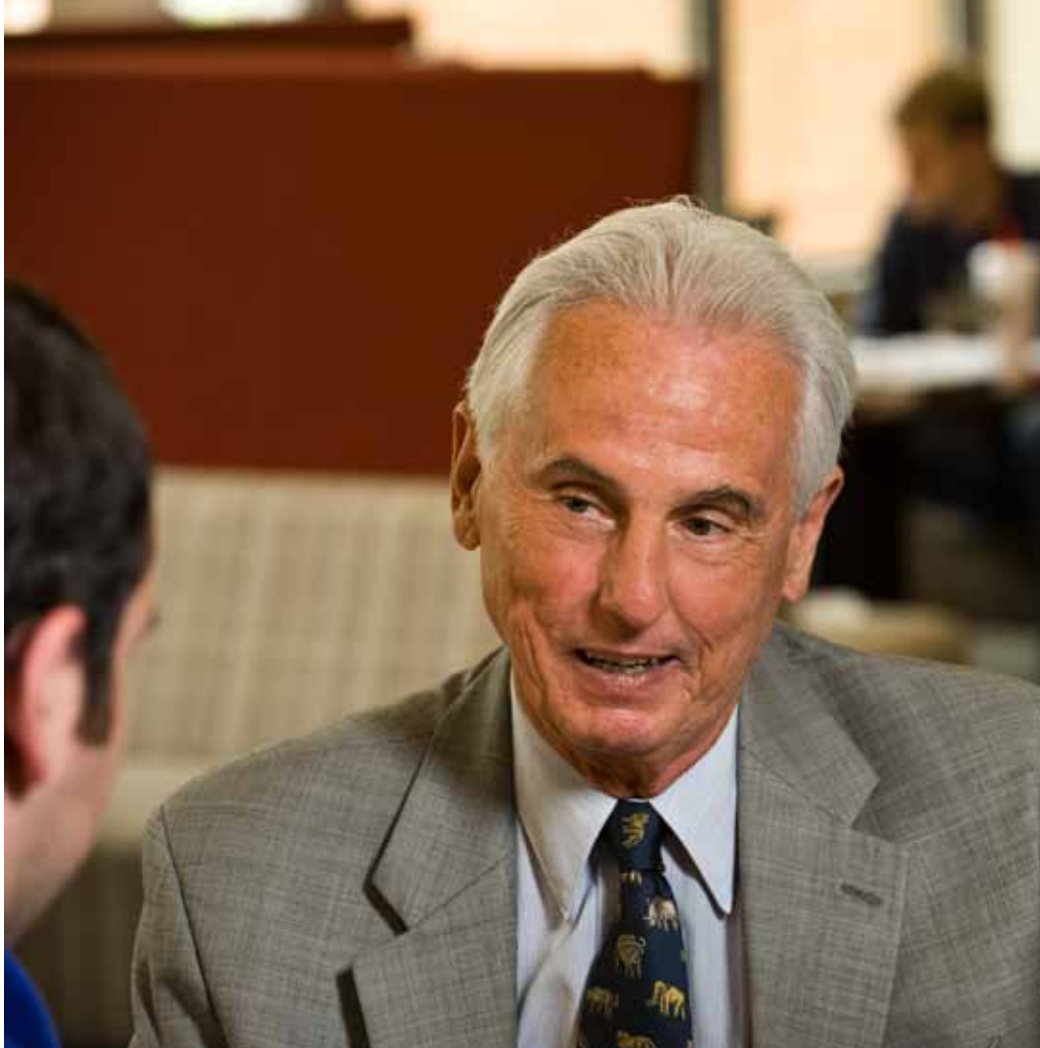


By Richard Doty

When Wright State leaders travel to alumni receptions throughout Ohio and the rest of the country, one question continually comes up: How is John Talbott?

Talbott, who retired in 2008 after more than 30 years of teaching accountancy, is one of the most respected and popular professors in the university's history. He also is one of the most beloved.

When contacted about being featured in *Community* magazine, Talbott responded in his typical humble and almost shy manner, "Oh, I don't know about that. We have some younger faculty in the Accountancy Department who would be better to interview. You should check with the department chair first."



Retired accounting professor continues to touch the lives of his students

A Wright State Treasure

One doesn't need to speak with a department chair to evaluate Talbott as a university educator. His record speaks for itself:

- The only two-time recipient of the Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award in Wright State history.
- Recipient of the University Presidential Award for Outstanding Teacher and Trustee's Award for Faculty Excellence.
- Selected as a Wright State University Distinguished Professor from 1989 to 1992.
- Recipient of a combined 15 Outstanding Teacher Awards from the Raj Sojn College of Business and the Department of Accountancy.

- Recipient of both the R. Lee Brummet Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Distinguished Service Award for Education in 2002 and IMA Student Case Competition National Award in 2002.
- Advisor to Wright State student teams that have won more IMA National Case Competitions (five) than any other school in the United States.

But above all else, Talbott loves to teach. "I really enjoy the interaction with students, both inside and outside the classroom," he said with an enthusiasm that reflects his passion for teaching.

At graduation, the relationship and mentoring most students have with their professors typically comes to an end. For Talbott, commencement is just another step in the process. He works

diligently to get accountancy graduates placed in jobs and stays in contact with them as their careers develop and prosper. "I simply relish the interaction with the students, alumni, and business community," he explained. Although retired, he still teaches on occasion and stays in contact with former students through emails, telephone conversations, and usually one or two lunches a week.

Several Wright State alumni have voiced high praise for the mentoring they received from Talbott. "The thing that distinguished Dr. Talbott was his ability to connect with the students at a level that engaged their interest in whatever he was talking about," said John Latham, a 1991 business graduate and a tax partner with Ernst & Young in New York City. "He brought passion and levity to the classroom, which made it interesting and fun."



to the Board of Trustees, said, "John works harder and is better prepared than his students. He is always available and willing to help. He also learns the names of all his students and remembers everyone."

If there is any secret to his success as a teacher, Talbott refers to legendary Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight. "Coach Knight used to say 'the will to prepare to win is infinitely more important than the will to win' and I have the philosophy that the will to prepare to teach is infinitely more important than the will to teach."

Kentucky-born and raised, Talbott graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1965. Following graduation, he spent a few years working in the private sector as a management accountant before pursuing his master's degree. "I received a teaching assistant position while pursuing the master's at UK after the Vietnam War and discovered that I really liked to teach," he said. He went on to earn a doctorate in business administration from Kentucky and taught at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

"The winters in upstate New York got to me, so I applied at Wright State in 1975 to return closer to my origins in Kentucky," he recalled. Talbott served in the Department of Accountancy from 1975 until his retirement two years ago.

Talbott was attracted to Wright State because of the caliber of the faculty. "I was extremely impressed with the quality of the accounting and business faculty. With people like Don Pabst, Joe Castellano, Harper Roehm, and Jerry Throckmorton, it was a very strong program and one I thought I could spend several years with."

Castellano was chair of accountancy when Talbott was hired and later served for five years as dean of the business college. "In all my years at Wright State, both as a professor and administrator, I never encountered a more dynamic, incredibly talented and inspiring teacher than John," Castellano said. "But he was more than just a talented teacher. He was one of the most gracious and dedicated persons I have met. He deeply cared about his students and would go

the extra mile to help them become the best that they could be both personally and professionally."

Talbott offered similar praise for Wright State's students. "The students then, and now, are outstanding, and the loyalty of the alumni is amazing. I am firmly convinced, and have been for years, that Wright State business students can compete with anyone,

anywhere, from any school," he said with obvious pride.

When he is not teaching, Talbott devotes his time to two avocations stemming from his Kentucky roots—horse racing and basketball. "I was a horse breeder and owner for 25 years and also coached youth basketball for many years," he explained. He once convinced the Accountancy Department to finance a trip to the state playoffs for a team of 13-year-olds. On another occasion, he worked with Concerned Black Christian Men to bring inner-city youth to Wright State basketball games. For several years, he organized a program for inner-city youth from Meadowdale High School to acquaint these students with a collegiate experience.

But the classroom is where Professor John Talbott really excels. As comments from former students and colleagues clearly indicate, Talbott has definitely mastered the will to prepare to teach. ☐

"I am firmly convinced, and have been for years, that Wright State business students can compete with anyone, anywhere from any school."

—JOHN TALBOTT

Justin Stallard, a 1996 graduate in accounting, expressed similar sentiments. "The value that John's sense of humor brought to the classroom cannot be underestimated. Regardless of the subject matter, he made the class entertaining. As a result, I—as well as other students—was truly engaged in the classroom and looked forward to learning from him." Stallard, a tax partner with Battelle & Battelle in Dayton, said Talbott also brought "a real-world perspective to the classroom. At times some professors can come across as 'ivory tower' theorists. John was always able to relate issues, whether tax or accounting, back to real-world situations and the business world."

Faculty colleagues also appreciated the contributions of Talbott. Susan Lightle, Ph.D., an accountancy professor, said, "John Talbott is truly a treasure to Wright State. He works tirelessly to push his students to excel and to help students get that all-important first job."

Robert Sweeney, Ph.D., executive vice president for planning and secretary

Wright State environmental scientist **Abinash Agrawal, Ph.D.**, (right) and **Michael Shelley, Ph.D.**, of the Air Force Institute of Technology at their wetland site at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The white tubes in the background represent some of the 200 monitoring wells where the researchers are studying how microbes can remove toxic compounds from groundwater and the soil.



By Richard Doty

Wetlands project between Wright State and the Air Force Institute of Technology has national implications

Nature's Kidneys



SCIENTISTS AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY and the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) are conducting an experimental project at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) to demonstrate how wetlands can help clean up the environment by removing toxic compounds from the groundwater and soil.

"Our findings show that microbes are destroying very toxic chlorinated, organic compounds in our research site," said Abinash Agrawal, Ph.D., an associate professor in Wright State's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and principal researcher of the wetland project. "Many wetlands have been established by scientists throughout

America to control sediments and nutrients, but ours is the only wetland that I am aware of that has been established to investigate destruction of toxic organic compounds."

Agrawal said the goal of this project has significant economic implications. "Chlorinated organic compounds are widespread groundwater contaminants that cause most of the groundwater pollution in this country," he explained. "This contamination affects drinking water quality at hundreds of thousands of sites in the United States. Since the cost of cleaning up these sites by existing techniques range in tens of billions of dollars, a passive treatment approach by natural processes using

the wetland is a cost-effective approach for groundwater remediation and site cleanup."

Agrawal works closely with Michael Shelley, Ph.D., a professor of environmental science and engineering at AFIT, and with James Amon, Ph.D., a Wright State professor emeritus of biological science, in this cooperative venture between Wright State and AFIT.

"In humans, our kidneys function to filter out the toxins from our body, and we are finding the wetland to be nature's kidneys that filter out toxic pollutants present in the water passing through it," explained Agrawal, a biogeochemist with more than 15 years of experience in studying the environment, particularly



wetlands, water quality, and groundwater contamination.

According to Shelley, "The wetlands are really nature's way of cleaning up many contaminants."

This experimental wetland research site is a small 70-by-100-foot parcel in Area C at the Air Force base. The project started in 1999 with conversion of the vacant land into a wetland marsh, dominated by standing water and brush and sponsored and funded by several government agencies.

The contaminated water in the experimental wetland flows upwards

"In humans, our kidneys function to filter out the toxins from our body, and we are finding the wetland to be nature's kidneys that filter out toxic pollutants present in the water passing through it."

—ABINASH AGRAWAL, PH.D.

to optimize the treatment process. Some 200 monitoring points have been established within the wetland, and a team of scientists from diverse disciplines is investigating the process of pollutant destruction in the shallow soil and groundwater.

"We are looking at the interactions between microbes and soil and water from a chemical and biological perspective," Agrawal said. "Microbes are present everywhere in our soil and water, but they are more active in a wetland environment, probably because of the greater availability of food

and moisture content these swampy areas possess."

Agrawal said seed funding for the laboratory work prior to building the wetland research site was provided by the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute. Further funding for field research is provided by AFIT annually. The funding for this project started out in the range of \$40,000 annually but now involves annual allocations in the \$200,000 range, in addition to analytical instruments and support for post-doctoral fellowships.

"Over the years, the grant total the project has received is between \$2 and \$3 million," said Shelley, who explained that over time the project would save millions of dollars for the Air Force and billions of dollars for industry across the country. □

Wright State graduate
made math an adventure
for thousands of students

By Jim Hannah

Two + Two = Fun

Middle-school students lucky enough to have **Anthony Holbrook** as their math teacher got more than lessons in numbers. They got a floor show.



Anthony Holbrook with his wife, Deborah, at Wright State University.



The principal once got a start when he walked into Holbrook's class to find everyone wearing Groucho glasses with fake noses, bushy eyebrows, and mustaches.

Over his 34-year career, the Wright State University graduate made math an adventure.

Holbrook's corny jokes would produce groans, but his students would demand at least one a day. He would stuff a glove with nylons so he could "give a hand" to deserving pupils.

The principal once got a start when he walked into Holbrook's class to find everyone wearing Groucho glasses with fake noses, bushy eyebrows, and mustaches.

And Holbrook's classrooms were filled with the strains of everything from country music to Vivaldi. Students would conga-line to rhythms inspired by a

mathematical formula so they would remember it.

Despite his passion for math, Holbrook almost didn't become a math teacher. He was on a track at Wright State to teach chemistry.

When his adviser asked him why he was taking so many math courses, Holbrook said he "loved" math.

"You just said the right word," the adviser replied. "Think about it."

Holbrook graduated from Wright State's College of Education and Human Services in 1979. His wife, Deborah, also an educator, attended Indiana University and got her master's at the University of South Florida. She taught science and reading during a 36-year career.

As a way to thank Wright State and help create a promising new crop of educators, the Holbrooks have pledged to donate at least \$500,000 for teacher scholarships.

Holbrook credits his success to Wright State. He said the university almost immediately got him doing hands-on work in real classrooms, taught him how to learn from his mistakes, and pushed him.

"It prepared me for everything," he said. "They won't let you fail at this university."

Holbrook began his teaching career in Ohio, first at Twin Valley Local Schools in Preble County and then at Spinning Hills in the Mad River Township



school district near Dayton. In 1985, he moved to Florida to help ease his sinus infections and began teaching at Pine View Middle School in Land O' Lakes.

With his entertaining style and passion for making math relevant, Holbrook quickly became a most popular teacher.

"I love teaching at the higher-order levels," he said. "I don't want to teach just 'two plus two equals four.' I want them to see why it equals four."

Holbrook would cut both ends off of a can and dub it a "can't" because it couldn't hold anything. He would show

it to students who said they couldn't do a math problem and then present them with a can with an intact bottom when they succeeded.

Once, as part of a math exercise, he climbed up on his desk to stack textbooks until they reached the ceiling. Then he fell off, shattering his wrist.

Holbrook taught at least 3,400 students over his career before retiring in October 2009.

"That's the true wealth you get from teaching," he said. "You've affected thousands of lives." □

**Students would
conga-line
to rhythms
inspired by a
mathematical
formula so
they would
remember it.**

Class of 1975

Tom Snyder (B.A.), editor of *Movieguide®*, is the co-author of *Culturally Corrosive Comedy: The Daily Show and the Colbert Report* in the Spring 2010 issue of *The Christian Research Journal*, published by the Christian Research Institute.

Class of 1977

Elinor Benedict (M.A.) has published a new book of poetry, *Late News from the Wilderness*. This is Benedict's second full collection of poetry. Her first book, *All That Divides Us*, won the May Swenson Award from Utah State University Press in 2000. *Late News from the Wilderness*, which examines the threatened natural world and related human concerns, is an "Editor's Select Poetry Series" choice by Main Street Rag Publishing

Company and a finalist in the publisher's annual competition. Benedict has also published five chapbooks and several short stories. A former Dayton-area newspaper writer, she resides in Rapid River, Michigan, in the summer and Naples, Florida, in the winter.

Woodrow Wilson (B.A.) published his first book, *Dare To Believe*, in December 2009. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2008, after nearly 21 years of service. Wilson is an ordained minister in the Church of God and has pastored for over 33 years, spending the last 15½ years as senior pastor of God's Community Outreach in Chillicothe, Ohio. He spent 16 years working in the newspaper business, including 11½ years as sports editor of the *Fairborn Daily Herald* in Fairborn, Ohio. Wilson and his wife of 41 years, Trish, have three children and seven grandchildren.

JAMES SILLERY ('70 B.A.)

Wright State alumnus to serve on Ohio State Bar Association Board of Governors

JAMES SILLERY ('70 B.A.) has been elected to serve a three-year term as District 17 representative on the Board of Governors of the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA). District 17 includes 186 attorneys who reside or practice in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, and Washington counties.

The 21-member Board of Governors manages the OSBA's business affairs, sets policy, reviews pending legislation, and conducts other business on behalf of the 25,000 Ohio lawyers and the 4,000 legal assistants and law students who are OSBA members.

Sillery received his law degree from The Ohio State University in 1973. He is a principal in the Athens firm of Mollica, Gall, Sloan & Sillery Co., LPA; Sillery's area of practice is civil litigation, general practice, and mediation.

Sillery is a past president of the Athens County Bar Association and has served on the OSBA Council of Delegates. He has also served on the Athens Board of Zoning Appeals and the Athens Recreation Board; as 14-year president of the Crime Solvers Anonymous Board; as past president of the Second Harvest Southeastern Ohio Food Bank Advisory Board; and as a volunteer assistant soccer coach for Athens Middle School and High School. He and his wife, Debby, reside in Athens, Ohio.



MARY PAT ZITTER ('80 B.A.)

Wright State graduate named president of Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges

Mercer County Common Pleas Court Probate/Juvenile Judge **MARY PAT ZITTER ('80 B.A.)** was sworn in as president of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges (OAJCJ) at the association's annual meeting on June 9, 2010.

The OAJCJ consists of 110 common pleas judges and 22 retired judges having juvenile jurisdiction and works to promote and provide leadership for a just and effective juvenile court system throughout the state of Ohio.

Zitter has served on the bench since being first elected in 2002. She is vice president of the Wright State University–Lake Campus Alumni Network. She also has been appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Superintendence and is a member of the Ohio State Bar Foundation.



Class of 1982

Brent Rutkowski (B.A.) was inducted posthumously into the Central Connecticut State University Athletics Hall of Fame (CCSU) on April 23, 2010. Rutkowski served as assistant athletics director and sports information director at CCSU for 15 years. Brent's wife, Janine, and daughter, Sara, live in Marlborough, Connecticut.

Class of 1983

Robert Clements (M.Ed.) received a promotion and tenure at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio. A faculty member at Cedarville University since 2003, Clements has been promoted to associate professor of communication arts. He currently resides in Dayton, Ohio.

Ted Gudorf (B.A.) is the first lawyer in Ohio to receive a Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) in estate planning and elder law. Gudorf graduated from the Western New England College School of Law on May 22, 2010. Gudorf is the owner of Gudorf Law Group, LLC, in Dayton, Ohio.

Class of 1985

Deborah Day (B.A.) has released her first book, *BE HAPPY NOW! Become the Active Director of Your Life*.

Melissa Bass Donaldson (B.S.B.) is senior manager of inclusion practices at CDW Corporation.

Class of 1986

Kevin Donaldson (B.S.B.) is an associate partner with IBM Global Consulting Services.

Class of 1988

Steven Thompson (B.S.M.S.E.) has received the 2010 ASTM International Award of Merit and title of ASTM fellow. Thompson is senior materials engineer in the Systems Support Division, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Class of 1990

Lena Arnold (B.A.) is the author of *For This Child We Prayed: Living with the Secret Shame of Infertility*; *For This Dream We Prayed Companion Journal*; *Strong Black Coffee: Poetry and Prose to Encourage, Enlighten, and Entertain Americans of African Descent*, and *In the Absence of My Father*. She currently resides in Dayton, Ohio, with her husband, Horace, and their three children.

Class of 1991

Steve Brady (B.S.B., '02 M.B.A.) and **Dennis Nagle ('99 M.S.)** are co-authors of *How to Save a Failing Project: Chaos to Control*.

Class of 1993

Stephen Barcavage (B.A.) is a founding partner at Owens Barcavage & McInroy, LLC, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Class of 1996

Lanny Greenbaum (B.S.B.), a United States Air Force major, took command of the 505th Communications Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida, on June 4. The squadron provides state-of-the-art command and control (C2) systems to support the activities and evolving needs of the C2 Warfighter. Prior to assuming command of the 505th Communications Squadron, Greenbaum served as the Global Cyberspace Integration Center Operations Division deputy chief. He received his commission in 1996 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, and in 2001, earned an M.B.A. from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He and his wife, Heather, have two children, Libby and Trey.

Class of 1997

Gary Norman (B.A.) is a staff attorney for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Baltimore, Maryland. He has retired his first guide dog, Langer, after nine years. His new guide dog is a Labrador/Golden Retriever mix named Pilot.

JAMAL SMITH ('00 B.A.)



Wright State graduate leads Indiana Civil Rights Commission

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels appointed **JAMAL SMITH ('00 B.A.)** as Indiana civil rights commissioner. Smith, who began his new duties June 7, was previously the governor's senior advisor on minority affairs.

Smith, of Indianapolis, joined the governor's office in April 2008. He was responsible for minority outreach and was the governor's liaison for the Indiana Black Expo, Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Indiana Parenting Institute, and a number of other community organizations. He served as a member of the Indiana Health Information Technology, Inc., board and on the Interagency Council for Black and Minority Health. He chairs the Governor's Commission on Minority and Women's Business Enterprises and will continue that service in his new role.

Smith was previously director of membership services for the Black Coaches Association and a graduate recruiter of diversity for Purdue University. He earned his master's degree at Purdue.

Stay Connected

Get the latest news and information from Wright State's Alumni Association with our new bimonthly e-newsletter. Email alumni@wright.edu to sign up now!

Follow the **Wright State Alumni Association** on Twitter, join the association on LinkedIn, or check out their Facebook page.



Class of 1999

Dennis Nagle (M.S.) and **Steve Brady ('91 B.S.B.; '02 M.B.A.)** are co-authors of *How to Save a Failing Project: Chaos to Control*.

Class of 2006

Rebecca Barton (B.S.N.) is one of five recipients of Walden University's Project Working Mom 2010 full-tuition scholarships. She has been selected to pursue her online degree in the Doctor of Education program at Walden.

Class of 2007

Dylan Borchers (B.A.) has received the Moritz Merit Scholarship at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Rebecca Lawrence (B.A.) will be attending the University of Cincinnati College of Law this fall on a scholarship. Since graduating from Wright State, she has earned an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and served for two years in the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

Alex Stout (M.Acc.) was promoted to senior accountant in the Springfield office of Clark Schaefer Hackett, one of the largest Ohio-based public accounting firms.



Class of 2008

Kimberly Brown (B.A.) is account manager at the Dayton Development Coalition.

Chad Haas (B.S.B.) was promoted to product planning manager of web solutions at Reynolds and Reynolds.



www.wright.edu/homecoming



Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2

Homecoming

Friday, October 1

Homecoming Festival

Includes fourth annual Chili Cook-Off featuring faculty, alumni, and student chefs; cornhole tournament; inflatables; games; and free food.

5 to 9 p.m.

Lot 20 (by Alumni Field)



Women's Soccer vs. Detroit

5 p.m., Alumni Field

College of Science and Math Alumni Connection

5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Lot 20, Alumni Tent

Men's Soccer vs. Loyola

7 p.m., Alumni Field





WELCOME BACK!

2010

Saturday, October 2 Campus Tours

Haven't been to campus in a while? You may be amazed at how the university has grown. Take a tour of your alma mater.
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bolinga Center



New event for Homecoming, celebrating 40 years of the Bolinga Center

African American Alumni Reunion

40 Years in the Making Let's Stay Together

5:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Allyn Hall, The Hangar

Cost: \$25 single, \$40 couple

Enjoy live music, great food, award presentations, networking, and more.

To register, visit the Alumni Association website at www.wright.edu/aareunion2010 or call (937) 775-2620.



Disney On Ice: Princess Classics Nutter Center, September 30–October 3

Wright State alumni, faculty, staff, and students receive \$4 off* all shows (except opening night) by using code WSU. Offer valid at Nutter Center Box Office, Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster outlets, and by calling (800) 745-3000.

*Discounts not valid on rinkside, front row, or VIP tickets. Limit 4 per transaction.

Returning Players, New Recruits Boost Basketball Outlook

By Richard Doty



AS BILLY DONLON BEGINS his first season as men's basketball coach at Wright State, he radiates enthusiasm and optimism for the Raiders in Horizon League play.

"Our goals are to compete for the league championship year in and year out," said the 33-year-old, who assumed head coaching duties when Brad Brownell left for Clemson. Donlon was Brownell's top assistant for the last four years.

"We have four great seniors (Vaughn Duggins, Cooper Land, N'Gai Evans, and Troy Tabler) who have done a lot for our program, in the community, in the classroom, and on the court. Our success will depend upon how quickly they can mesh as a cohesive unit with our new players," he said. "Some of our

new players are going to have to make an immediate impact."

The four returning players were four of the five top scorers for the Raiders last season, with Duggins leading the way at 14.2 points per game as the team finished with a 20-12 record, the fourth consecutive season the team under Brownell won 20 games or more. Evans is expected to be the starting point guard, with Tabler at a shooting guard position, and Land, at 6'8" the tallest of the four, being counted on for inside play and rebounding.

The newcomers Donlon is counting on are Vance Hall, a 6'4" guard from Frankfort, Kentucky; Matt Vest, a 6'4" swingman from Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton; Johann Mpondo,

a 6'8" frontcourt junior transferring from the University of New Orleans; Cole Darling, a 6'7" forward from Holt, Michigan; A. J. Pacher, a 6'9" forward from Vandalia; and Kegan Clark, a 6'4" guard from Jeffersonville, Indiana. Joining them will be returning guard Darian Cartharn, a sophomore from Canal Winchester, Ohio, who was a District 10 Player of the Year in high school.

Here is, in brief, how Donlon assesses his new personnel:

- "Vance has a great basketball sense and a tremendous feel for the court and his teammates."
- "Matt, son of former Raider great Mark Vest, is an outstanding athlete who will bring versatility to the lineup."
- "Johann gives us experience up front; he sees the court well, can move to the ball for rebounds, and score inside and out."
- "Cole plays with great energy, and his maturity as a player is something I am excited about."
- "A. J. has an ability to shoot the three, which, at his size, makes him very dangerous."
- "Kegan's athleticism and college-ready body should enhance our perimeter defense."

Donlon said fans won't notice much difference in the Raiders' style of play when they take the court this fall. "Our focus will be on effort, unselfish play, and defense. Coach Brownell, who is one of the best coaches in the country, and I share the philosophy that defense wins championships."

Donlon voices enthusiasm over the upcoming basketball schedule that includes games with three new, exciting opponents—Cincinnati, Air Force, and North Carolina—Charlotte. "I am excited about the opportunity to play quality opponents. Our fans, our players, and, hopefully, our recruits will share in my excitement," he said. 🐾

New Women's Coach Says to Expect Changes on the Court

By Richard Doty

FANS OF THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM at Wright State will notice some big changes when the Raiders take the court this fall under new coach Mike Bradbury.

"You will see a drastic change in the tempo of the game," he explained. "We will play fast, take the first available shot, and put up a lot of threes. Defensively, we will be much more controlled and play very conservative with a man defense."

Both the offensive and defensive styles reflect the coaching philosophy of Bradbury, who comes to the Raiders after three successful seasons at Morehead State. His teams compiled a 50-44 record, including a school record in wins last season when they finished 22-11 and were invited to the post-season Women's Basketball Invitational. Along the way, his team last year led the nation in three-point attempts and was the league leader in team defense.

With the Raiders, Bradbury said he will be looking for continued improvement and leadership from six returning players: Paige Lowe, LaShawna Thomas, Ta-myra Davis, Molly Fox, Tanni Scott, and Maria Bennett. Leading the way will be Thomas, a senior guard, and Davis, a senior center/forward. Thomas averaged 12.1 points per game to lead the team in scoring last season, while Davis was the top rebounder, averaging 5.9 per game for the team that finished 11-19, including 6-12 in Horizon League contests.

"I'm excited about the upcoming season, because we have a great opportunity with returning players who have improved tremendously at individual workouts and will continue to improve as the season progresses," said Bradbury.

Two newcomers to the team that Bradbury is counting on to make an immediate impact are Courtney Boyd from Brookville (Ohio) High School and Jessie Alexander from Xenia (Ohio) High School. Boyd averaged 19.1 points last season while earning All-League honors. "Courtney is a very talented player and good shooter," said Bradbury. Alexander was player of the year in her league as a junior. As a shooting guard, she led her division in scoring while ranking second in assists and steals. "Jessie is a very athletic guard who is active on the floor," Bradbury noted.

The new coach, whose ties to this area include successful assistant duties at Xavier and Cincinnati, said he was attracted to Wright State because of the university's leadership and great facilities. "With the Nutter Center and the Setzer Pavilion/Mills-Morgan Center, we have facilities to compete with any university in the country," he explained. "And the support from Director of Athletics Bob Grant and the university administration is excellent, which is not always the case in women's sports."

Bradbury added, "I'm a very competitive person, and I came here to win. I expect to compete for the Horizon League championship and attract student-athletes who will graduate on time." During his years with Cincinnati (1996-2002) and Xavier (2002-2007), Bradbury recruited heavily in the Dayton region. He was an integral part in signing the nation's top-ranked player at Xavier in 2006-2007, and Xavier last season made the NCAA Elite Eight. "Mike has been a key recruiter in this region and helped secure several Top 25 recruiting classes to Xavier and Cincinnati, not to



mention a highly ranked class in his first year at Morehead State," said Grant.

Bradbury is particularly enthusiastic about recruiting in this area of Ohio. "The Dayton region is a hotbed of talent, with excellent high school programs producing young ladies who can compete at the collegiate level," he said. "Recruiting is the lifeblood of your program, and it is very important that we have success locally. We know we won't get everyone, but we want to get our fair share."

A graduate of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Bradbury started his coaching career there as an assistant then moved on to East Tennessee State and Virginia Commonwealth before joining the program at Cincinnati. In each of his last 10 seasons as an assistant coach, his teams qualified for postseason play. In all, 12 of the 17 teams he has been involved with have made post-season appearances. 🐾

Gordie Wise: The Man at the Microphone

Four decades announcing Raider basketball games

“WELCOME TO ANOTHER EXCITING NIGHT OF RAIDER ROUND BALL.”

Thousands of Wright State basketball followers have heard that greeting at the start of basketball games over the years, but most of those attending would be hard pressed to put a face with the voice.

And that’s okay with Gordie Wise, who has served as a volunteer public address announcer for more than four decades. Wise started with the first Raiders game at Stebbins High School gym in 1969. Except for missing a few games over the years because of schedule conflicts and illness, he has been the man at the microphone ever since.

Wise was honored in 2008 with an award from the Department of Athletics for his 40 years of service, and he has enjoyed virtually every minute of it. “I have had the best seat in the house for 42 years,” he said with the enthusiasm of someone starting his announcing duties. “It’s been a heck of a ride, and as long as I’m having fun and Bob (Director of Athletics Bob Grant) wants me, I will continue.”

Grant has no plans for a change. “Gordie is part of our fabric,” he explained. “He is really very much like Joe Nuxhall was for the Reds or Jack Buck for the Cardinals. You hear his voice and immediately think of Wright State basketball. He cares deeply for this university, is a consummate professional, and a true gentleman.”

For Wise, 42 years of announcing Raiders basketball games started as a lark.

“Don Mohr was the athletics director and we became friends because I was very interested in sports and college athletics,” explained Wise, who taught marketing at Wright State from 1966 until his retirement in 1993. “We were getting



ready to play the first basketball game and Mohr was visiting with several of us who were colleagues and friends. He began making assignments by asking us to assume duties like running the clock and keeping score. He got to me when he was selecting a game announcer.



“He is really very much like Joe Nuxhall was for the Reds or Jack Buck for the Cardinals. You hear his voice and immediately think of Wright State basketball.” —BOB GRANT

I said I would, even though I had no experience; that’s how it all began.”

It certainly wasn’t his only interest in sports at Wright State. Wise was on the feasibility committee to study starting a sports program at the university. He drafted the original constitution for the athletics council, for which he served as the first chairman. Wise spent 21 years on the athletics council, and he also spent 19 years as the Wright State faculty representative to the NCAA.

Reflecting on Wright State’s basketball program over the years, Wise

By Richard Doty

believes Gary Monroe, a junior college transfer who helped the Raiders earn the 1983 NCAA Division II championship, was the best player in Raiders history. He said that although the Raiders won an NCAA title with Monroe, the greatest team might have been the 1986 squad that lost in the national quarterfinals. Their 28-3 record is the best in Wright State history. The biggest upset was the 1999 home win against Michigan State in the year the Spartans went on to claim the Division I NCAA championship.

Some basketball games in recent years are also fond memories for Wise. The most exciting games were the two wins against Butler in 2007, when the Raiders excited a sold-out Nutter Center with last-second victories on the way to the Horizon League tournament title and a berth in the NCAA. “A lot of that was because of DaShaun Wood. He was one of my top five players in Raiders history. He just wouldn’t let us lose.”

Wise, who still teaches as a professor emeritus of marketing, maintains a passion for academics. “I love teaching these kids and interacting with the youth. I don’t view it as a job; I love them all.”

He knows the road well from his home in Piqua to the Wright State campus. When Susie, his wife of 29 years, was pursuing her master’s degree in nursing, Gordie would drive her to campus twice a week for classes while she studied with a clip-on light in the car. Their blended family of his four children and her three daughters has provided the couple with 15 grandchildren and countless memories.

Meanwhile, Wise is looking forward to the start of another hoop season with “high hopes” for new men’s basketball coach Billy Donlon. 🐾

Alumni Association's Annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing

On August 16, the Dayton Country Club hosted the Wright State University Alumni Association's annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing. Golfers enjoyed lunch, won prizes, and showcased their golfing skills, while raising funds for the association's Legacy Scholarship Program. Many great scores were posted, but the biggest winners that afternoon were the students who benefit from the program. Established in 1994, the Legacy Scholarship Program

has raised more than \$468,000 and awarded over 500 individual scholarships to the spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and legal dependents of current voting association members. For more information on the program, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620. The Wright State Alumni Association wishes to extend a very special **THANK YOU** to the following sponsors and individuals who made our 2010 event the best yet!



Golfing "Fore" Scholarships

EVENT SPONSORS

ROGERS & GREENBERG LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

John M. Cloud
Barry W. Mancz
James G. Kordik



Robert A. and Veronica B. Sweeney Family Scholarships



FIRST

first financial bank

and

Mary Hedrick, Financial Advisor
First Financial Wealth Resource Group
Located in Dayton, Ohio

RAJ SOIN
College of Business
WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

PAR SPONSORS

Dayton Daily News
DaytonDailyNews.com



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

BREAKFAST SPONSOR



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

LUNCH SPONSOR

SEI New ways.
New answers.®

HOLE SPONSORS

AD Products of Dayton, Inc.
Cal Tec Labs, Inc.
Ed and Diane Phillips
Gregory E. Notestine, D.D.S.
Initial Point LLC
Liberty Mutual
McManagement Group
Pickrel Brothers, Inc.
Signs Now in Beaver Creek
Vantage Point Financial Services, LLC
Wright-Patt Credit Union

CART SPONSORS

Brady Ware
Complete Petmart
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar
Fox and Hound
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
The Children's Medical Center of Dayton

PRIZE SPONSORS

Abuelo's
AD Products of Dayton, Inc.
Adobe Gila's
Barnes & Noble Bookstore at Wright State University
Brio Tuscan Grille
Cheesecake Factory
City Barbeque
Coldwater Creek
College Store
Complete Petmart
Dayton Heidelberg Distributing Co.
EO Burgers
Fox and Hound
Gallery on The Greene
Giovanni's
Jiffy Lube
Longhorn Steakhouse
Milano's
Mimi's Cafe
Peerless Technologies Corp.
Potbelly Sandwich Works
Quaker Steak & Lube

Subway at The Greene
The Funny Bone
Talbot's at The Greene
T.G.I. Friday's
Trader Joe's
Victoria Theatre Association
Wright State University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
Wright State University Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures
Wright State University Ervin J. Nutter Center
Wright State University-Lake Campus Bookstore
Young's Jersey Dairy

BEVERAGE SPONSORS

Pepsi-Cola Company
Wright State University Alumni Association



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

Advancement
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

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

**Check
Us Out
Online!**

You can now read *Community* magazine in print and online.

- Enjoy online-only features such as photo galleries and videos.
- Submit your AlumNotes online.
- Give us your story ideas for future issues.

Going green?

Sign up to cancel your print subscription and receive future issues by email.

www.wright.edu/community



Warrior-Saint

Wright State graduate is the first Sikh in two decades to serve in the U.S. Army

When Captain Tejdeep Singh Rattan, '01 and '05, began his military service



A Job Hunter's Best Friend

Wright State graduate writes a how-to guide for finding a job in today's economy

When Andrea Foy was



Scents and Sensibility

Wright State student paves the way to his master's degree with his own line of vegan soaps

When his job was put on



Homegrown Movie

Wright State graduates produce feature film entirely on location in Dayton

A young woman, missing



Nature's Kidneys

Wetlands project between Wright State and the Air Force Institute of Technology has national implications

Scientists at Wright State