

Spring 2023

Wright State University Magazine, Spring 2023

Wright State Alumni Association and Wright State Foundation

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Wright State

MAGAZINE

ATHLETICS THROUGH THE YEARS

A timeline of programs
and achievements

PERSON. STUDENT. ATHLETE.
THE CULTURE OF ATHLETICS

A STORY OF CREATIVITY
AND DRIVE

SPRING 2023

ONCE A RAIDER, ALWAYS A RAIDER

The baseball Alumni Game returned to Nischwitz Stadium in the fall of 2022. It was great to see many familiar faces in the stadium the current players defeated the former players 12-2.



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NIVERSITY



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and letters to:

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dreaming Big

The success of the Wright State athletics program is rooted in a culture that fosters the holistic development of the students. The P.S.A. model (People, Students, Athletes) is based on the philosophy that a well-balanced, happy student-athlete is more productive—not only here as an athlete, but, more importantly, academically and in the community. Wright State athletics is developing 21st-century leaders who have been tested in the classroom and in competition. That winning combination is a competitive advantage they leverage for life.

Our student-athletes are again able to fully reengage with the community through acts of service and volunteerism for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, logging nearly 2,000 total hours of community service in 2022 in and around the Dayton area. Student-athletes have worked and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, BEARS4CHILDREN'S, Fairborn City Schools, the Wright State University Police Department, the Raider Food Pantry, and the Air Force Marathon, among others.

Our student-athletes continue to be model students in the classroom, recording a single-year Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 89 percent, while Wright State athletics' four-year average GSR is 87 percent. The average cumulative GPA for all student-athletes as of the end of the 2022 Fall Semester was 3.281, with the average single semester GPA for Raider student-athletes at 3.209. The 2022 Fall Semester marked the 57th consecutive semester that Wright State athletics has seen its student-athletes record a combined GPA above 3.0 as a department.

Our student-athletes' efforts on the fields of play have pushed Wright State athletics into its most successful period in school history. Six different teams have made 13 appearances in their respective NCAA tournaments since 2018. Four separate



Raider team sports have recorded NCAA victories in that same span. Since 2018, our athletes have collected 19 major Horizon League awards (Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year, etc.), while our coaches have earned 11 different Horizon League Coach of the Year honors over that time as well.

In this issue, you will learn more about the P.S.A. model that guides athletics and has helped it grow a culture of excellence. You'll reconnect with some of your favorite Raiders from years past and learn how they've found success professionally. I also hope you'll take time to read about the impressive impact athletics has on our annual Wright Day to Give campaign, and immerse yourself in "Life at the Lake," a feature about our successful and growing Lake Campus.

There's a lot to enjoy in this edition of the *Wright State Magazine* for Raiders and Lakers alike. I look forward to seeing you at the next game, match, or meet to talk about these stories and more.

Best wishes,


Sue Edwards, Ph.D.

President

 @WSUPrezSue

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ON THE COVER Wright State athletics has evolved immensely over the years. This cover is a snapshot of the athletics' archives. Take a journey through time of our evolution from Division II to Division I, and the many accomplishments throughout our history. Special thanks to W. Thomas Koogler '71 and Patricia A. Koogler '75, '80 for many athletic items featured in this issue.

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OH, HOWL YEAH!

With a fun theme and a new time of year, 2023 Homecoming was a week to remember! In addition to our signature basketball events, alumni, students, and Raider friends alike enjoyed a build-your-own-Rowdy kickoff, the Alumni Achievement Awards, the Alumni Beer Tasting, free giveaways from athletics, crowning a new homecoming court, and more!



CALLING ALL RAIDER ROMANCES!
Did you meet your match at Wright State?
Send your photos and story to alumni@wright.edu and you could be featured in our next issue!

CAMPUS HEADLINES

A 'gem' of a team takes silver in Paris

An 11-member team of Wright State students won a silver medal at the iGEM Grand Jamboree, a global synthetic biology competition for young STEM researchers, in Paris.

The students' research focused on detecting dangerous levels of manganese in drinking water and soil.

The students are members of Wright State's International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) team, part of Biotechnology Outreach Bolstered through Education in STEM and Development, or BIOBESTD, a Department of Defense program to develop a national workforce in biotechnology.

Raiders secure automatic bid to NCAA volleyball tournament after earning second Horizon League title

The Wright State volleyball team earned another trip to the NCAA tournament after sweeping Northern Kentucky in the Horizon League tournament championship game.

Jenna Story was named the Horizon League Tournament MVP, and Callie Martin and Sam Ott were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Raiders lost to No. 13 Georgia Tech in three sets at Marquette in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.



\$3.6 million gift from Reynolds and Reynolds creates Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans and new scholarships for business students

A \$3.6 million gift from the Reynolds and Reynolds Company and its foundation will launch the Reynolds and Reynolds Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans at Wright State University and create new scholarships for business students.

Details of the gift were announced at an event on October 27 at the ReyRey Café in Rike Hall.

"This is one of the largest gifts in the history of Wright State University," said Wright State President Sue Edwards, Ph.D. "The Reynolds and Reynolds Company has been a valued corporate partner from Wright State's earliest days as an institution of higher education. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support and look forward to working with them as we launch the Reynolds and Reynolds Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans at Wright State University and the Reynolds and Reynolds Business Scholarship in the Raj Sooin College of Business."

The Reynolds and Reynolds Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV) will further expand the collaboration between Reynolds and

Wright State while supporting the success of military veterans who are aspiring entrepreneurs.

A \$3 million gift from Reynolds and Reynolds will create an endowment to permanently underwrite the costs of the EBV.

"The service men and women who defended our right to life, liberty and happiness must not themselves be obstructed from achieving their own American dream," said Chris Walsh, president of Reynolds. "We are honored by the sacrifices they have made, and this is one way we thank them for their service—by helping ensure there is a path toward a fruitful future for them when their service ends."

The Reynolds and Reynolds Company Foundation has also pledged \$600,000 over the next three years for scholarships for Wright State business students.

Students selected for the Reynolds and Reynolds Business Scholarship will receive an annual scholarship of \$5,000 that is renewable for each year of their undergraduate education at Wright State.

Wright State launches College of Graduate Programs and Honors Studies

Wright State has merged its Graduate School and University Honors Program into the College of Graduate Programs and Honors Studies, creating an innovative new college that will elevate the visibility of both programs and ensure student success.

"The goal of this merger is to elevate both units together to increase the visibility and the status of these units and to create synergy and new opportunities between the two," said Provost Amy Thompson, Ph.D. "It's a win-win for our students. It helps with efficiencies as well as recognition and elevation."

Merging the two programs is expected to create a pipeline for undergraduate honors students who want to pursue a graduate degree at Wright State.

The College of Graduate Programs and Honors Studies will offer enhanced student support services, provide new research opportunities for students and faculty, and help students develop a sense of connection with each other and the Wright State community.

First-time student enrollment increases in Fall Semester

The number of first-time students who enrolled at Wright State in the fall of 2022 was the highest in three years. Wright State welcomed 1,541 first-time students at the start of Fall Semester, a 10.5 percent increase from the fall of 2021 and the highest number of first-time students since 2019.

The number of first-time students from underrepresented groups increased by 27.6 percent, from 355 in fall 2021 to 453 in fall 2022.

And more first-generation college students and students who qualify for Pell grants also enrolled at Wright State. The fall class included 350 first-generation college students, an increase of 12.5 percent, and 586 Pell grant recipients, an increase of 10.8 percent.

While nationally the number of college students transferring to another institution declined, the number of new students who transferred to Wright State increased to 703, thanks in part to the Wright Path program, which makes it easier for local community college students to transfer to Wright State to complete a bachelor's degree.

Grants from Intel Corporation will support curriculum development and training for local students

Wright State is a key participant in two grants from Intel Corporation, which is building two microchip factories near Columbus, to develop new curriculum and experiential learning opportunities to prepare students for careers in semiconductor manufacturing.

Wright State is collaborating with Central State University to help build a semiconductor educational program and a microelectronics lab and provide experiential learning opportunities for underrepresented undergraduate STEM students.

Wright State is also one of four leadership universities in the Ohio-southwest Alliance on Semiconductors and Integrated Scalable-Manufacturing (OASiS), which seeks to build a world-class knowledge base and workforce training ecosystem for the semiconductor industry.

OASiS institutions will offer short certification courses on semiconductor manufacturing, training students and faculty in semiconductor equipment and processes, cleanroom operations, safety protocols, and other skills.

Veteran and Military Center Champion Garden named in honor of late Wright State ROTC graduate

On September 8, Wright State will dedicate a new garden space on the Dayton Campus in honor of Shawn English, an Army ROTC graduate who was killed in combat in Iraq in 2006.

The Captain Shawn L. English Champion Garden will honor military veterans and those who support them.

Located outside the Veteran and Military Center near Millett Hall, the Champion Garden will be open to all members of the Wright State community. It will celebrate those who champion veterans, including other veterans themselves, family members, Wright State staff and faculty, and those who work with them.

English was a member of the Army ROTC Raider Battalion. As an older, more experienced student, English mentored the younger cadets and had a strong desire to help them develop the tools necessary to lead successfully.

He graduated from Wright State in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in communication studies and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

After graduating from Wright State, English served as an Army dive officer before deploying to Iraq to lead a Military Transition Team.





Life at the Lake

Lake swings for a return to the Small College World Series BY SARAH CAVENDER '20

The Lakers baseball team spent the fall of 2022 anticipating the chance to compete in the 2023 Small College World Series, which they missed last season after five consecutive appearances. The Lakers are using that absence as a driving force.

The Lakers will start this season with a new head coach and several first-year student-athletes.

John Bailey, interim head coach, is no stranger to the program as he has been the assistant for the past eight seasons. Bailey pitched at Indiana State University, NCAA Division I, for three years. Coach Bailey is married with two children and lives in Coldwater, Ohio.

His staff includes assistant coaches Brennan Meyers and Cory Cottrell, both of whom played for the Lakers.

“We are young, athletic and have a lot of power,” said Bailey. “I’m looking forward to each player learning their role as our team becomes a family.”

The string of five consecutive appearances in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association Small College World Series ended in 2022. However, Bailey said that’s motivated the Lakers to make a comeback this season.

“We are going to have to do the little things right and limit our mistakes,” said Bailey of the team’s goal of qualifying for the Small College World Series. “We want to make an impact while we are there. We want to win games and push for a championship.”

From transfer students to recruits coming from areas as close as Versailles and as distant as Florida, the team is made up of a variety of skilled players. But their collective goal is to return to the Small College World Series.

“We’re very hungry because of last year’s results, and we’re still very young,” said first baseman Drew Emerson, who earned Second Team All-America honors. “But we want to make a name for ourselves and compete this year.”

Emerson, from Springboro, Ohio, is a sophomore and general business major at the Lake Campus. Nick Hundley, a second baseman from Enon, Ohio, also earned Second Team All-America honors. Emerson, Hundley, and Sam Conklin, a senior left-handed pitcher from Waterville, Ohio, are co-captains.

As captains, they lead drills and show their teammates how to carry themselves as college baseball players and deal with all the challenges that come with being a student-athlete. The co-captains also help younger players adjust to college life.

One of the first-year players is shortstop Noah McEldowney, who graduated from Versailles High School. “Probably one of my favorite memories so far has been the Halloween game,” McEldowney said. “Everyone dressed up, and I was a banana person.”

“It’s a big adjustment for a lot of these kids coming from smaller schools,” Hundley said. “It [Lake Campus] is not a huge college, but there are bigger classes, and you have to stay on top of the classes. Baseball year-round, and the weight room is a big thing—helping them get better at their craft on the baseball field.”

Hundley is looking forward to the upcoming season with new players and renewed motivation.

“I can tell a big difference. Last year we didn’t click as well as we did this year,” Hundley said. “Having those teammates and guys you can count on and working

together through stuff helps a lot. And it’s a lot of fun once you start playing baseball and spending all this time with your teammates and friends and brothers.”

The shared competitive experiences create lifelong memories. As Hundley recalls, “The Small College World Series in Pennsylvania was really what got me hooked my freshman year. It was unbelievable. The field is beautiful, and the competition’s crazy. There’s a home run derby, and the softball World Series going on at the same time. It’s just an unbelievable environment. Last year we didn’t qualify, which was kind of disappointing because, at a program like ours, that’s our goal, to make the postseason.”

The Lakers baseball program provides student-athletes the opportunity to pursue careers in professional baseball. In July 2021, pitcher Casey Grimm, an M.B.A. graduate, signed a contract to pitch for the Florence Y’alls in the independent Frontier League. Grimm led the Lakers to their most recent appearance in the Small College World Series and was named USCA Player of the Year, a First Team All-American, and an Academic All-American.

The Lakers travel quite a bit for games, practices, and tournaments. One way they finance travel is through two fundraising events. During the fall, they host a golf outing, and, during their first home game, they open with a raffle.

“We’re a self-supported program,” Hundley said.

To support the Wright State Lakers baseball team, please visit wright.edu/give/lakebaseball.

THROWBACK



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IN EARLY 1967, as the Dayton Campus of Miami University and the Ohio State University (soon to be Wright State University) prepared for its transition to an independent state university, early rumblings of the development of an intercollegiate athletics program began to surface.

While the branch campus had an active intramural sports program, the new university was eager to begin competing in intercollegiate athletics. Instrumental in this effort was Student Aid Director Don Mohr, who would become the architect for intercollegiate sports at Wright State.

Mohr was unhappy with several local news media reports that the new university would enter intercollegiate athletics in the 1967–68 academic year, when the university had no athletics program or facilities for doing so. Working with intramurals director Cliff McPeak, Mohr drafted a preliminary proposal for an athletics program, recommending soccer, basketball, and a few other sports for consideration for NCAA membership, outlining the physical facilities and equipment, financial commitments, and legal responsibilities for the university in supporting a program.

While there was substantial support, funding for the program became a major issue. Despite this, the Wright State men's soccer team, while not yet officially an NCAA-sanctioned team, first took the field on October 3, 1967. With no funding available, team members purchased their own uniforms, provided their own transportation to matches, and footed all the bills.

They would lose their first match 10-1 to Bowling Green State University. Their play improved throughout the season, culminating in a 4-0 victory against Ohio State.

The team made quite an impression on the Wright State community and on the schools they played. In February 1968, the university Board of Trustees approved a proposal to establish and support a modest program of intercollegiate athletics, paving the way for Wright State's application for NCAA membership.

It became clear that external funding would be required to get the program off the ground, giving rise to a successful public fund drive for Wright State intercollegiate athletics. With financial infusion from the public campaign, as well as sizable donations from the university's Student Senate, *The Guardian* student newspaper, and *Nexus* student literary magazine, Wright State athletics was able to gain enough footing to apply for NCAA membership. The student body would provide sustaining funds through an athletics fee.

A watershed moment for the soccer team arrived in the fall of 1968 with the hiring of Bela Wollner, an experienced player and coach from Hungary who provided the technical expertise and coaching to develop the Wright State players.

In Wright State's inaugural season under Wollner, the team went undefeated in its first five games, finishing with a record of eight wins, three losses, and two ties. —CHRIS WYDMAN '94, '97

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THE CULTURE OF ATHLETICS

AT WRIGHT STATE, THE GAME PLAN FOR SPORTS IS SPELLED P.S.A.

BY JESSICA GRAUE '04, '09



JOYLYNN BROWN, SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR AND SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR, (LEFT), **BROOKLYNE MASON**, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR (MIDDLE), AND **BOB GRANT**, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS (RIGHT).

Wright State University has been a dominating force in Horizon League athletics for years. Six Raider teams, including men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, and baseball, have made appearances in NCAA tournaments since 2018.

Supporting the success of student-athletes is a cadre of coaches, trainers, academic advisors, and administrators. Among those administrators is Director of Athletics Bob Grant, who has helped usher in a mission for the athletics department that is proving to be very successful.

Grant, who earned an undergraduate degree from Wright State in 1988 and an M.B.A. in 2000, has worked for the university in multiple positions since the mid-1990s. When he began his tenure as athletics director in 2008, Grant wanted to create an environment that focused on student-athletes as people first, students second, and athletes third—P.S.A. culture.

“I asked, ‘What does a Bob Grant-led athletic department look like?’” Grant recalled. “I don’t like our business in a lot of ways. Many [athletic] programs that achieve high levels of success are not doing it the right way. They are the epitome of winning at all costs, and I don’t feel like that’s the right way to do things at all.”

When Grant was a young staff member, he would have some athletes over for dinner in an effort to get to know them better. When he became athletic director, all the teams wanted to come over for dinner. That clicked with Grant.

“Parents have trusted us with their kids to help make a better life for them and prepare

them for when they leave,” Grant said. “That was sort of where the P.S.A. mission was born.”

Grant and his team worked strategically to create a vision and mission statement everyone in the department would follow. During recruiting visits with students and coaches, he outlines the mission. There are some athletes and coaches who just don’t fit. However, Grant is passionate about upholding his principles.

“I remember thinking, if this doesn’t work, and we’re not successful, at least I can lay my head on my pillow at night and know we did it the right way,” Grant said. “This is a business where very few people doggedly stick to their principles and core values. Ultimately, we are an athletic department, and if this doesn’t work, I’ll walk out with my pride knowing I didn’t sacrifice my principles.”

Grant didn’t have to sacrifice his principles because the concept has taken off. Grant credits his athletes, coaches, and staff in helping to make it successful.

Many people who work in the department are former Raiders, which gives them unique insight and a common bond with the current student-athletes.

Joylynn Brown is the senior associate athletics director and senior woman administrator. She was a volleyball player from 1989 to 1992, as well as assistant and head volleyball coach until

2005. Brown agrees that Grant's vision is working.

"Bob's done an amazing job instilling the P.S.A. culture. Everyone knows what it stands for and he truly means it. We see what other schools are doing, and we've been doing it quietly for years. We want people to genuinely have a positive experience here," she said.

Brown said the department has made mental health an important part of the P.S.A. culture. Years ago, athletics began working with a counselor to help athletes deal with issues. Brown said the culture at Wright State helps all student-athletes flourish.

"It's different for every person. I've met a lot of student-athletes, and one thing I've learned is that it doesn't matter if they are male or female. It's their background and how they're wired. We value students the same on all teams," she said.

WHAT DOES P.S.A. CULTURE ENTAIL?

According to the athletic department's website, the mission statement involves building a foundation for students, conducting scholarly research and creative endeavors, engaging in community service, and driving the economic revitalization of the region. Students are full-time in the classroom and on the court. They also are required to complete community service and life-skills programs.

Brooklyne Mason is the athletics department's special projects coordinator. Like Brown, she is a former student-athlete. Mason played soccer for the Raiders from 2014 to 2018. Part of her responsibilities includes oversight of wellness department staff and management of health and wellness activities scheduling and events.

Mason tries to hold life-skills classes once a month. Topics include diversity, inclusion, emotional wellness, stress management, social responsibility,

ATHLETICS AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY IS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN JUST COMPETING. IT IS ABOUT THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG ADULTS WITHIN OUR WRIGHT STATE FAMILY. WE TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENT ATHLETES:

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SECOND, AS *STUDENTS*.
THIRD, AS *ATHLETES*.

OUR THINKING IS THAT A WELL BALANCED, HAPPY STUDENT ATHLETE IS MORE PRODUCTIVE NOT ONLY HERE AS AN ATHLETE, BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, ACADEMICALLY AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

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hazing prevention, and gender-based violence. Mason said these skills are a necessity for students while they attend school and afterward.

"We help them build skills they will use after they are student-athletes," she said. "A lot of times, when you are a student-athlete, winning is your No. 1 priority."

Another of Mason's duties is overseeing the student-athlete advisory committee, which decides on community service projects. In terms of community outreach, student-athletes read to kids at Fairborn City Schools, work for Habitat for Humanity, and help pass out candy at Halloween with the Wright State University Police Department, among other projects. Mason said the student-athletes are always receptive to volunteer requests.

"The work is rewarding. And if one of your teammates helps, the positivity spreads to the rest of the team. It's cool they want to help the community despite everything they have on their plates. Depending on what you do, you get exposed to the way other people live and it gives them a deeper appreciation for life," she said.

Mason and Brown both stressed the family-oriented atmosphere at Wright State and credited Grant with a lot of the success of the P.S.A. culture initiative. They agreed that when they played at Wright State, the culture was inclusive.

Current student-athletes feel the same way. CJ Wilbourn is a senior men's basketball player who transferred to Wright State from Milwaukee.

"I transferred because I was looking for something better, culture- and team-wise. I wanted to go somewhere with more support. I've never had an AD's number in my phone. Any time you reach out to him [Grant], he responds. He cares about your well-being," Wilbourn said.

FUTURE OF WRIGHT STATE ATHLETICS

Beyond some record-breaking seasons, Grant is proud of the academic achievements of the student-athletes. He said the student-athlete graduation success rate is 87 percent and, for 57 consecutive semesters, the athletes have maintained GPAs of 3.0 or better.

He also said one of his greatest accomplishments is making it through the pandemic and all of its challenges. “And not just making it through [the pandemic], but having our student-athletes thrive...is probably our greatest accomplishment. And it’s not just me. It’s our staff and our coaches. It’s a testament to their grit and their toughness,” he said.

Grant will continue to run the athletic department with the P.S.A. culture initiative at the forefront. He believes it has made the students better in every way and the statistics prove it. However, beyond running the department, Grant said he will continue to be the down-to-earth guy his student-athletes and staff can approach with anything.

“Honestly, the best things I do are not around athletics. It’s the teams coming to my house. It’s the sophomore ice cream socials and senior lunches. It’s those things that my staff and I do tirelessly that reap benefits, because the hypothesis way back in 2008 was a happy, healthy, safe student-athlete would be productive athletically.”

Family atmosphere brings Raiders baseball home



PHOTO CREDIT: JOSEPH CRAVEN '15, '18

The Wright State baseball team has experienced continued success under head coach Alex Sogard, winning the Horizon League and appearing in the NCAA regional tournament the last two seasons. The Raiders have never appeared in three consecutive NCAA tournaments—so that is the team’s motivation for the 2023 season.

“We’ve been a success the last seven years, beating Power Five teams and Big Ten schools, and bigger schools we don’t normally compete with at the same level,” said Sogard, who was named head coach in 2018 after being an assistant coach for two years.

Sogard, who pitched for Oregon State University and North Carolina State University, said one of the big selling points in his coming to Wright State was the family atmosphere he felt. Sogard said he fully embraces the athletic department’s P.S.A. (People, Students, Athletes) culture.

“The ability to do this [P.S.A. culture] with a smaller school is because we can focus on the person more,” Sogard said. “At bigger schools, you can get lost in the shuffle. Here there’s a more personal connection.”

One thing Sogard does with the team is to have one-on-one meetings with the 35 players every week. The meetings are about baseball, but Sogard said they also talk about anything relating to the athletes’ lives and classes.

“I get to know them better,” Sogard said. “Transfers said they had no conversations with head coaches. We want them to feel like they have a connection with us and that we get to know them on a personal basis.”

Sogard said he likes getting to know the students in these meetings, but there’s another benefit. Knowing a student-athlete personally will make an impact on how to coach them. Sogard also promotes team-building exercises, including physical and mental competitions. These competitions help with team bonding.

“As far as just connecting with players, our coaching staff tries to make that a priority,” he said. “It’s more of a big brother relationship. Our guys are comfortable. The guys give coaches a hard time because they are comfortable, and they will play better if they’re comfortable.”

BACK THE PACK

GIVING ATHLETES WHAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

BY MICAH KARR '19

Every year, the Wright State community comes together to raise money for Raiders and Lakers, future and present, through the Wright Day to Give. This online event encourages students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, retirees, and friends to Give Back to the Pack.

The Wright Day to Give has always been a help to the community, but over the past few years, the contributed funding has made an enormous impact on several of the university's athletic programs.

In 2022, the university raised over \$202,000 in one day, \$52,000 by Wright State athletics alone. More than 300 people donated through the athletics campaign.

The athletics campaign was far and away the most funded of the nine campaigns. The second-highest-funded was the College of Engineering and Computer Science, with just under \$9,000 in donations and roughly 30 donors.

The volleyball team raised approximately \$21,800 on the Wright Day to Give. The baseball team raised \$7,500, golf \$5,600, men's basketball \$5,000, and women's soccer \$3,500.

The day of fundraising featured a variety of giving challenges, such as encouraging first-time donations and donation matching.

During the challenges, if 200 people donated, a lucky donor would receive two courtside seats to Wright State's November 9 men's basketball game against Davidson, along with a pregame meal and two Nike jackets.

Joylynn Brown, senior associate athletics director and senior woman administrator, said Wright Day to Give funds impact all athletic programs, and the volleyball team in particular.

The team began to ramp up its efforts about five years ago, using social media and challenges during the Wright Day to Give.

"People want to feel like they are part of something, so the more we make them feel like a part of the Raider volleyball family, the better," Brown said. "This happens with positive, open communication and a welcoming environment."

Brown said matching challenges during the Wright Day to Give helped. An anonymous donor pledged a \$10,000

match, which assisted greatly with fundraising efforts.

Additionally, student-athletes reached out to family members and friends invested in the Wright State volleyball program. Brown said the team pushed the Wright Day to Give through email and social media, including an alumni group on Facebook.

"We wanted to win by raising more money than any other team. Our supporters jumped on the chance and exceeded the \$10,000 challenge," Brown said. "Division I athletics are very competitive, so it makes sense the people who support us are competitive, too."

Past volleyball coaches communicated with alumni through a newsletter and Facebook group. Travers Green, who became head coach in April 2022, continued these efforts, ensuring that family and friends were involved in the fundraising process as effectively as possible.

Green said social media played a large role in raising funds during the Wright Day to Give. Anonymous donors offered thousands of dollars to athletics, which will go toward the Wright State athletics mission of transforming the lives of student-athletes by treating them as people first, students second, and athletes third.

Green said the fundraising efforts have

GREEN & GOLD



PHOTO CREDIT: JOSEPH CRAVEN '15, '18, ROBERT HAYES, BETSY MALONE OSTERBUR, JESSICA ROBERTS '23, AND ALEX UNDERWOOD



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FUNDING THROUGH WRIGHT DAY TO GIVE ENABLED THE VOLLEYBALL AND GOLF TEAMS TO IMPROVE THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE. THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM PURCHASED HORIZON LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS, IN ADDITION TO UPDATING ITS LOCKER ROOM, AND INSTALLING A STATE-OF-THE-ART VIDEO BOARD AND BRANDING IN McLIN GYM. THE GOLF TEAM PURCHASED A VAN TO HELP WITH TRAVEL TO TOURNAMENTS AND RECRUITING EFFORTS.

enabled the volleyball team to operate at a championship level they may not have been able to otherwise reach. The funds raised through the Wright Day to Give allowed the team to attend championship games and enabled them to purchase Horizon League championship rings.

“With an increased cost to travel, we operate over what our budget allocates for team travel. Fundraising helps cover the difference when our operations go beyond the amount budgeted,” Green said. “We are grateful for what we have and want to represent this university to the best of our ability. We are very appreciative of the

market Wright State’s athletics programs, Green said.

The team was also able to hire a professional videographer to create content for the board as well as pay for extra gear, celebrations like the Senior Night dinner, and off-campus team-building events.

Both Brown and Green said they were incredibly proud of the volleyball team and the hard work they put into fundraising. Green said he was also impressed by the way the team was able to stretch its donations as far as possible to improve the student-athlete experience on a variety of fronts.

The golf team also hosts a college golf tournament in April, saving money in the travel budget as Wright State gets to play at home, head coach Connor Lash said. The team also sells 50/50 raffle tickets at home basketball games.

The golf team has raised money to fly on commercial flights to some tournaments, as well as to purchase a van. Lash said both were beneficial.

“Flying to tournaments is certainly a perk because it’s easier on your body and your brain. Everyone loves to be on a two-hour plane ride to Florida instead of a 12-hour van ride,” Lash said.

“The van we bought a few years back allows some of those longer trips to be more comfortable and allows more room in case the guys want to take a nap or get some schoolwork done,” Lash said. “The van has also helped on the recruiting side of things, because the majority of teams have a school van used for travel.”

Lash said he would like to focus future efforts on raising money for offseason golf activities. Playing golf outside all year in Ohio is difficult. To keep the team sharp over the winter, Lash would like to improve the team’s indoor hitting bays and build up an area big enough to have an indoor putting green.

“I believe this is something we can achieve,” Lash said.

Lash said he was proud to see the student-athletes involved with fundraising. He also said the family, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends who donated to the cause were inspiring.

“Those relationships can last longer than the four years the student-athletes are here,” Lash said. “They can last a lifetime.”

“We are grateful for what we have and want to represent this university to the best of our ability. We are very appreciative of the people who have supported our program over the years.”

**TRAVERS GREEN
HEAD COACH, WRIGHT STATE VOLLEYBALL TEAM**

people who have supported our program over the years.”

Green said he asked student-athletes what they wanted to do with the money raised during the Wright Day to Give. He was able to help make a few immediate purchases, such as additional apparel and some athletic training equipment.

The volleyball team also used the money to enhance the student-athlete experience. Specifically, the funds went to a state-of-the-art video board and branding in McLin Gym. The branding, featuring sports-specific graphics in the lobby, outside of the gym, and in the locker room, was both an improvement for current student-athletes and a great way to

“Our team is full of bright, outgoing, and competitive young women,” Brown said. “They are strong academically and athletically. They are incredible ambassadors for the university and make others feel welcome. Wright Day to Give presents our department with the opportunity to highlight their successes, which leads to amazing support.”

Wright State’s golf team also greatly benefitted from Wright Day to Give.

Alongside the Wright Day to Give campaign, the golf team raised money through a golf fundraiser at the Heatherwoode Golf Club in Springboro. The fundraiser was heavily attended by family, friends, and alumni.



To give to the new Rowdy Raider Spirit Fund which supports general athletics initiatives and the mascot, please visit givecampus.com/x4s6m2.



PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES BERKLEY

a CREATIVE force

FROM THEME PARKS TO CRUISE SHIPS, ACTING ALUMNUS JAKE LOCKWOOD PUTS HIS UNIQUE SPIN ON ELEVATING THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

BY KIM PATTON

As an acting major at Wright State University in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Jake Lockwood hated improv classes.

“Everything I had done was script work. You take a script and you learn your lines. This idea of making it up as you go along was bananas,” Lockwood recalled thinking. “I really resisted it.”

Years later, as a performer at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, Lockwood would discover that improv was not only fun, but also a wonderful stepping stone to a career as a show writer and director.

“A lot of what I’ve done as a director is taking those improv tools and training and weaving them into this immersive theatre that is coming of age,” said Lockwood.

As an independent contractor and through We Bring The Funny—a company he co-owns with two friends—Lockwood is putting his stamp on developing unique and interactive entertainment experiences for audiences, whether they’re cruising along the shore of Alaska, visiting a theme park, or attending a trade show.

One of Lockwood’s most recent creative ventures involves working with the global experience and innovation team at Princess Cruises. While he couldn’t share specific details about the project, Lockwood did say they are examining the fleet at large and developing programs and initiatives that will challenge the status quo and shape the cruise industry going forward.

“We’re looking at everything,” he said. “What does the restaurant feel like? What does your welcome aboard feel like? Does the entertainment on your stateroom TV enhance your overall cruise experience?”

Through his work with Disney, Lockwood has become seasoned at elevating the guest experience to new heights. He spent three years partnering with the team at Walt Disney Imagineering on the development of *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser*, the newest hotel on Disney property that immerses guests into the world of *Star Wars* for a two-night adventure.

The storytelling journey begins as soon as guests board the Galactic Starcruiser, where they are sent on missions and launched into a wide variety of interactions with characters from the *Star Wars* franchise.

“You have the same characters that you’re playing with for two days. It becomes a whole relationship,” Lockwood explained. “It was really fun to play with and help direct that development process.”

Lockwood first worked with the team at Disney Imagineering in 2015, when he was a show director on *Star Wars Weekends* at Disney’s Hollywood Studios.

“Every weekend, we would bring in different celebrities from the *Star Wars* movies and TV shows,” he said. “We would have different offerings every week, so people would come back time and time again to see the parades and the shows that we would put on.”

As part of the *Star Wars Weekends*, Disney Imagineering wanted to test new ways in which guests could interact with the characters. In lieu of the traditional meet and greet, where guests



stand in line waiting to get their photo taken with a character, Lockwood was tasked with creating innovative experiences where guests could actually interplay with both beloved and reviled characters.

“It was wildly successful,” he said. “I would see parents taking pictures of kids hiding behind crates with Ezra and Sabine from *Star Wars Rebels* as opposed to standing and holding their hands. You got this great action shot of them hiding from Stormtroopers. As a parent, that’s the picture I want to put on Facebook and in the memory book.”

Lockwood’s relationship with Disney first began in the early 1990s when Lockwood was an acting major at Wright State. Two of his friends were traveling to Chicago to audition for Disney, and they convinced Lockwood to go with them.

By 9:30 that morning, Lockwood’s two friends had been cut from the audition. Meanwhile, Lockwood kept advancing through the process. By 5 p.m., he was being measured for costumes.

“What a great program. You look at some of the successes who have come out of Wright State and continue to come out of Wright State, and I am just so immensely proud to be a part of that family.”

JAKE LOCKWOOD

“I suddenly realized that my life had just changed,” he recalled. Lockwood originally envisioned that he would perform at Disney World for two years, pay off his college loans, then pursue acting jobs in New York City or Los Angeles. But Disney was an equity job. It paid well and there were opportunities to grow.

Lockwood spent the next 15 years as a full-time performer at Disney World. One of the highlights of his Disney tenure was performing in *The Comedy Warehouse*, an improv show in the entertainment district formerly known as Downtown Disney. The Comedy Warehouse troupe performed five shows a night, seven nights a week.

“It was challenging and creatively rewarding,” said Lockwood. “The core team got really close to each other. We knew each other so well. We were a really tight improv troupe that was able to deliver on the Disney standard.”

Lockwood found his writer’s voice during those years, as he took suggestions from the audience and turned them into comedy sketches and songs on the spot.

“I credit Comedy Warehouse with my success in my career,” he said.

As *The Comedy Warehouse* was coming to a close, Lockwood and his wife returned to Dayton for a few years. During that time, he performed in several shows at the Human Race Theatre Company, where he is now a resident artist.

“Human Race will always be in my heart. I’ll always try to find opportunities to either perform or support them in their mission,” said Lockwood.

In August 2022, Lockwood was one of the writers and directors for Human Race’s first Playwright Race, part of the Art in the City celebrations in downtown Dayton. Writers, directors, and actors had less than 24 hours to write, rehearse, and

FAR LEFT: JAKE LOCKWOOD (BOTTOM LEFT) IN WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF *PETER PAN*. **LEFT:** LOCKWOOD AS TED QUINN IN WRIGHT STATE'S PRODUCTION OF *THE AMERICAN CLOCK*.

TOP RIGHT: LOCKWOOD WITH TWO OF HIS FAVORITE DROIDS, C3PO AND R2D2, DURING *STAR WARS* WEEKENDS 2015 AT DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS.

BOTTOM RIGHT: LOCKWOOD IN DISNEY CRUISE LINE'S *TOY STORY* ROOM IN 2016.

perform five-minute scenes in pop-up performances throughout the festival.

Lockwood's experience with Disney helped open the door to his work with youth theatre groups. He previously spent two years as senior show director at Vandalia Youth Theatre. One of his fondest memories of that time was spearheading a stage version of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. That production is especially meaningful to Lockwood, since he had opened the Disney theme park version of the show on the same day the movie premiered in theaters in 1996.

"To be able to do it again on stage with a huge cast was so rewarding," he recalled. "I love working with youth. They're like sponges and you get such great discoveries out of them when you set them free as artists."

Lockwood first caught the acting bug as a young child, when he began performing on stage at age 3. Even though he grew up in the world of theatre, he resisted doing it in high school, because theatre wasn't considered cool. He focused his attention on band and even thought about becoming a band director.

A friend—who had been accepted to Wright State—convinced Lockwood that acting was his true calling and encouraged him to audition for Wright State's theatre program. Lockwood was accepted into the selective program and decided to try Wright State for a year to see if he liked it.

"I immediately fell in love with everything that was happening at Wright State," said Lockwood, who joined the National Guard to earn money for his tuition. "I wouldn't trade my Wright State experience for the world."

Lockwood has remained close to his Wright State family. A few years ago, he helped organize a reunion for alumni of the theatre, dance, and motion pictures programs. He also spent three years as an adjunct faculty member, teaching improv to sophomore acting majors at Wright State.

"I was thrilled to be able to share what I know and to see the lights go on for my students," he said. "I loved that experience. I learned as much as I taught."

While he spends most of his time in the Orlando area, Lockwood still has much love for Dayton and his college alma mater.

"What a great program. You look at some of the successes who have come out of Wright State and continue to come out of Wright State, and I am just so immensely proud to be a part of that family," he said.

Lockwood continues to stay busy, working on projects that unleash his creativity and challenge the norm. He is currently in the process of writing several plays.

"Keep an eye out," he said. "You never know where you'll see my name next."





RAIDER ROUNDUP: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former Wright State student-athletes reflect on their days of competition and life after sports

BY KIM PATTON

EVERY FORMER STUDENT-ATHLETE HAS A STORY.

For some, their success in intercollegiate sports launched professional careers and the fulfillment of childhood dreams. For others, their days of Raider competition and camaraderie are cherished memories from a time long before they went on to accomplished careers outside of sports. And then there are those student-athletes whose days of competition came to a crashing halt when a painful injury ended it all.

However their Wright State journey started and ended, the Raider family of student-athletes continues to make its mark throughout the Dayton region, Ohio, and beyond.

Four former Raiders share how they're making an impact in the world today.



Joe Smith

Former Major League Baseball star is on a crusade to end Huntington's disease

When it comes to former Wright State baseball players, Joe Smith is undoubtedly one of the most successful. The right-handed sidearm pitcher has played for the New York Mets, Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Angels, Chicago Cubs, Toronto Blue Jays, Houston Astros, Seattle Mariners, and Minnesota Twins.

While pitching in the 2019 World Series for the Astros may be the highlight of his Major League Baseball career, Smith's greatest legacy will likely be far away from a pitcher's mound.

Smith and his wife, TNT sports reporter Allie LaForce, created the HelpCureHD Foundation with the goal of ending Huntington's disease (HD), one family at a time. For the sports power couple, it is a personal mission that hits extremely close to home.

Smith lost his mother and maternal grandmother to HD, a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. The disease—for which there is currently no cure—robs a person of their physical and mental abilities.

"It's devastating for the person going through it," said Smith. "The disease progresses and just cripples and takes away your life."

HD also wreaks devastation on the entire family. Smith's mother, Lee Smith, had to be admitted to a long-term care facility at age 59. She passed away in



August 2020, just before her 62nd birthday.

Smith and LaForce say they are determined to do all they can to prevent other families from enduring the pain and heartbreak of losing a loved one to HD. Through their foundation, they have awarded nearly 130 grants to help families undergo in vitro fertilization (IVF) with genetic testing so HD is not passed along to the next generation.

"Once you have a child without Huntington's, it stops in your family line," said Smith, who has a 50/50 chance of inheriting HD. "I just want it out of the world. I don't want anybody to go through it."

Without assistance from HelpCureHD, IVF is a cost-prohibitive process many families cannot afford. Each round of IVF

can cost anywhere from \$35,000–40,000, and most insurance plans do not cover it.

Along with creating a financial burden for families, IVF can take an emotional toll as well.

"It's tough. It's a long journey," said Smith, who has stood by LaForce's side during three rounds of IVF. In November 2022, Smith and LaForce finally welcomed their own HD-free bundle of joy, Jacob Michael Smith.

As LaForce announced baby Jacob's birth and shared his first photos with the world on her Instagram account, her words said it best: "Life is complete."

To learn more about the HelpCureHD Foundation, visit helpcurehd.org.

Winston Marshall '05

Former Wright State soccer star dreams of being on the big screen

While soccer may have been Winston Marshall's first love, scoring goals was not his only dream in life.

Born and raised in Toronto, Marshall

had always been interested in acting. But as Marshall's time became more consumed with soccer, acting aspirations were put on the back burner.

Marshall became so skilled at soccer that he was recruited by both the Canadian youth national soccer team and Wright State. And he was disciplined enough to play for both.

Marshall's freshman year at Wright State

became a delicate balancing act between school, soccer, and travel. In between his Wright State classes and soccer matches, Marshall would play with his Canadian teammates in such faraway places as Ireland or Germany.

As busy as he was, Marshall even managed to earn Horizon League Player of the Week in a win against the University of Illinois Chicago. ➔



“I had never even intended to go pro,” he said. “But I gave it a try, and I can always say I did it.”

Marshall began taking acting classes while in Dallas. At an acting workshop, he met Fran Bascom, a casting director for the daytime drama *Days of Our Lives*. Impressed with Marshall’s acting chops, Bascom offered to help him get work once he moved to Los Angeles.

“True to her word, she gave me my first-ever television role,” said Marshall, who landed a small recurring role on *Days of Our Lives*.

Marshall also appeared on the daytime drama *The Bold and the Beautiful* and in the television series *Covert Affairs* and *Nikita*.

Like most working actors, Marshall’s career came to a standstill during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While a feature film project was canceled, he is now back to auditioning and looking for the next opportunity to come his way.

He recently did some promotional modeling for the Fabletics men’s line, and he appeared in commercials for ASICS and Comcast. His ultimate goal is to work in feature films.

To persevere in an industry known for rejection and heartbreak, Marshall relies on the life skills he learned as a Raider and professional athlete.

“Sports is the best metaphor for life—learning discipline, organization, and teamwork,” he explained. “My four years at Wright State changed my life. I grew from a boy into a man. I feel that whatever challenge comes my way, I’ll always have that to fall back on.”

“It made me believe that I could play at the highest of levels in the Horizon League and in college soccer,” he said.

Marshall was the first Wright State player drafted by a Major League Soccer team. But when he was first approached by FC Dallas, Marshall was torn between whether he should play professionally or stay in school and graduate.

He chose the latter.

“It was so important to my parents and myself that I graduated and earned a degree,” explained Marshall, who earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing. “I got to finish school, make my parents proud, and then go to Dallas.”

Marshall played for FC Dallas for one season. It was a short-lived professional soccer career as Marshall already knew what he wanted the next chapter of his life to be—acting.

Amanda Thompson '08, '09

After a successful stint at NASA, one former Raider is back making a difference in the Miami Valley

When Amanda Thompson received an athletic scholarship to Wright State, she thought she would be making history as a member of the first Raiders team to compete in women’s pole vaulting.

But a knee injury ended Thompson’s collegiate career before it could even begin.

While Thompson had to redshirt her freshman year, she still attended practices and traveled with the team to competitions. She even got back into shape, but her knee was too compromised.

“Competing at that level was going to be extremely hard on my body,” she recalled. “I don’t look back on it as a negative thing; people get injured. I was just grateful that the coach let me stay on and help the other women train.”

Even though her plans to compete were sidelined, Thompson immersed herself into all Wright State had to offer. She was active in student government, worked at the Wright State bookstore and in a lab on campus, and studied abroad.

“I had a wonderful Wright State experience,” said Thompson.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in business management and an M.B.A., Thompson was recruited for a contracts management position at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

When one of Thompson’s mentors—the director of acquisitions at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena—suggested she come to California to work on projects at NASA, Thompson and her husband, fellow Wright State graduate David Toller '06, headed west.

As a senior subcontracts manager, Thompson had the opportunity to collaborate with scientists and engineers on the *Europa Clipper*. Scheduled to launch in October 2024, NASA’s *Europa Clipper* will conduct detailed reconnaissance of one of Jupiter’s moons, Europa.

While Thompson found her work at NASA to be both fulfilling and interesting, she returned to Dayton four years ago to join JJR Solutions, a management consulting and IT solutions company owned by 1988 Wright State graduate David Judson Jr.

As vice president of growth services, Thompson says she enjoys the opportunity to help shape a newer organization. She is proud of JJR's work with its government clients and especially proud of the company's commitment to giving back to the community. To date, JJR Solutions has donated more than \$1 million to local organizations.

"We just like to make people's lives better and easier," she said. "It's really rewarding. You can feel the impact in your heart."

A proud Wright State graduate, Thompson serves on the Wright State Alumni Board of Directors.

"I view Wright State as a pillar in the community. It has such an impact on so many people," Thompson explained. "Wright State offered me so much opportunity. It took me to NASA."



Robert Pollard '79

Guided By Voices leader reflects on his prolific music career and his famous Wright State no-hitter

While fans of the Dayton-based indie rock group Guided By Voices are familiar with the genius of the band's leader and creative force, Robert Pollard, they may not know Pollard once played baseball for Wright State.

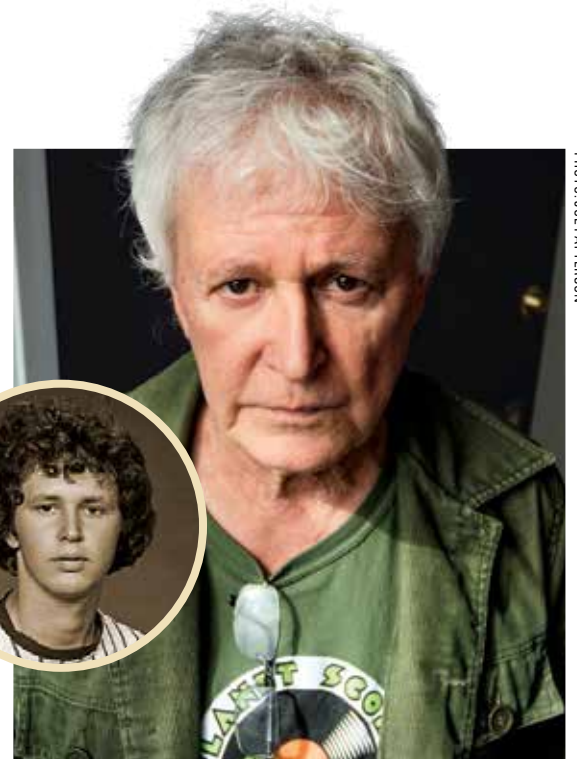
In fact, Pollard made history in May 1978 for throwing the first-ever no-hitter for the Raiders.

"I didn't realize I had a no-hitter until after the final pitch and my team cleared the bench on me," Pollard recalled. "I had given up a run early in the game, maybe on an error and a stolen base or something. Because of that, I didn't feel much pressure. My team knew and kept it a secret."

Pollard has fond memories of his years at Wright State.

"It was great. I had a lot of fun. I also got into some trouble occasionally. But I met a lot of good people and had some fantastic professors," he said.

Pollard credits a Wright State creative



writing professor for boosting his confidence and helping him discover his potential as a writer.

"He gave me an A++ on a short story I wrote called 'Eightball.' I thought that was a pretty impressive grade," Pollard explained. "Wright State gave me a lot of confidence growing into an adult, especially from a creative standpoint as a writer and entertainer."

To say Pollard has had a prolific career as a singer and songwriter would be an understatement. With a discography of more than 100 group and solo albums, Pollard shows no signs of slowing down. He is even now back on the road with Guided By Voices, playing a few gigs each month.

"The shows are great. Four or five hundred to a thousand people, usually sold out," he said. "I have a fantastic band and we've been together now for about seven or eight years. Very tight chemistry."

In January 2023, Guided By Voices released its latest album, *La La Land*. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the inception of Guided By Voices as a performing and recording entity.

"We have a very special local performance to commemorate that landmark," said Pollard, "but I'm not going to give it away just yet."

Shining **LIGHT**

From branch campus beginnings
to small-school radiance and
Division I brilliance,
Wright State athletics has glowed
brightly over the past 50 years.

BY ALAN HIEBER '16



RIGHT STATE

RAMBLERS





WRIGHT STATE'S BOB SCHAEFFER DURING A JANUARY 1978 GAME AGAINST YOUNGSTOWN STATE.

Men's basketball had its maiden season in 1970–71. The Raiders were coached by John Ross over the initial five years of the program, including two respectable 17-win campaigns.

The Marcus Jackson coaching era began in the 1975–76 season with a bang. In Jackson's first year, the team won 20 games and made its first appearance in the NCAA Division II tournament. Jackson would win 11 and 14 games through the next two seasons before Ralph Underhill was hired in 1978–79.

Underhill's tenure proved to live up to Wright State's golden school color. The Raiders became a perennial Division II contender, reaching the NCAA tournament in four consecutive seasons. The rise to prominence set up a magical year in 1982–83.

Halfway through the season, Wright State faced off against rival Kentucky Wesleyan. The Raiders trailed by one point and had possession with seconds remaining. The ball eventually worked its way to guard Tom Holzapfel, who took a shot from the left elbow. It hit the right side of the rim and bounced toward the baseline.

Guard Mike Grote had gained rebound positioning there, but he was falling down. All Grote could do was throw up a prayer of a shot that miraculously hit every side of the rim and rolled in. It's known as the Raider version of "The Shot."

"We never had a bad game after that win," said Jim Brown, former Wright State assistant coach and current radio color commentator.

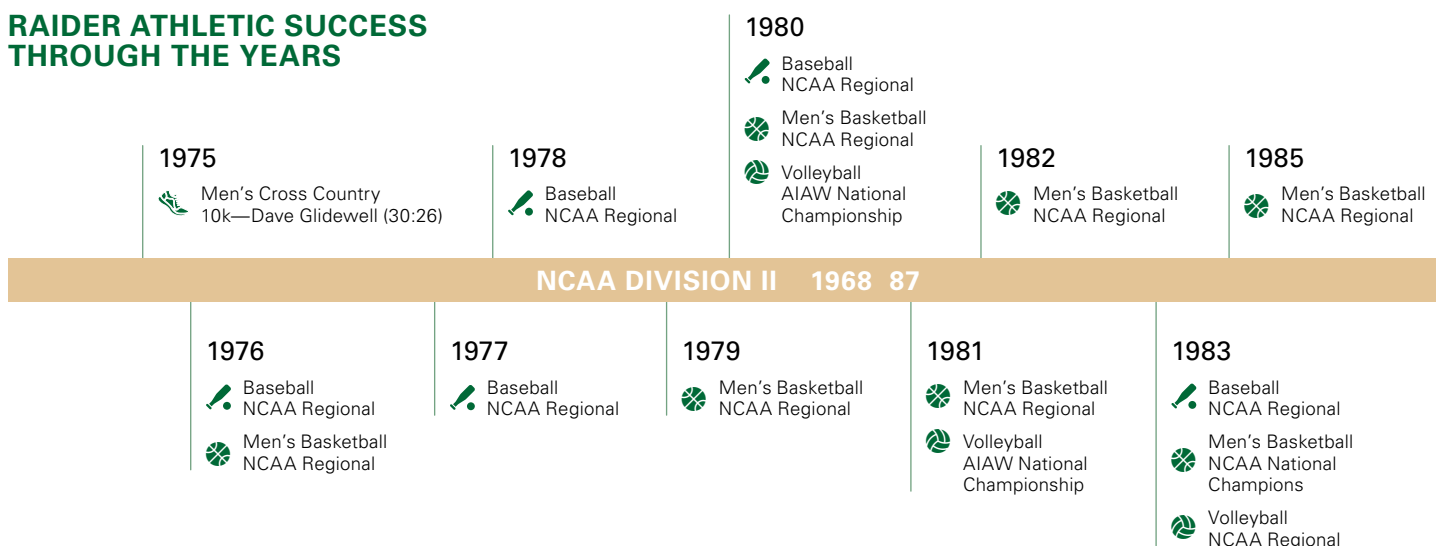
With the combination of Holzapfel, Grote, 6-foot-3 guard Fred Moore, and 6-8 forward Gary Monroe, the Raiders went undefeated during their remaining Division II slate, making it all the way to the national title game—a landslide 92-73 victory over District of Columbia.

"We all got along," Holzapfel said. "Nobody cared who scored points, and there was no jealousy or friction. It was just a great group of guys, and we all clicked. If you want to be a champion, that's what it takes."

Wright State followed the seminal championship with two more NCAA bids. The momentum helped spur the team's arrival to NCAA Division I in 1987–88. Amid the success, it's no surprise that the team's home court, the PE Building Gym,



RAIDER ATHLETIC SUCCESS THROUGH THE YEARS



was consistently selling out. The need for space was a key factor in the construction of the significantly larger Nutter Center in 1990.

The 1990–91 season was the first one for Bill Edwards, who holds the men’s program scoring record of 2,303 points to this day. During Edwards’ senior campaign of 1992–93, the Raiders won the conference tournament, leading to Wright State’s first ticket punched to the NCAA Division I tournament.

The remainder of the 1990s was quiet in comparison. Wright State would only win 14 games at most to wrap up the decade. Vitaly Potapenko’s big presence was noteworthy during this span, however, as he became a member of Wright State’s 1,000-point and 500-rebound clubs and


the Raiders’ first NBA draft pick.

The first six seasons of the 2000s saw Wright State remain competitive, but the team didn’t make it far in the conference tournament. That all began to change under coach Brad Brownell and standout guard DeShaun Wood. The 2006–07 Raiders went 23-10. Fans stormed the court at the Nutter Center after a 60-55 win over a nationally ranked Butler squad, giving Wright State its second NCAA berth.

Brownell departed for Clemson and was succeeded by Billy Donlon. Donlon’s teams were constantly on the brink of the NCAA tournament, advancing to the Horizon League title game on four occasions during



TOP: WRIGHT STATE MEN’S SOCCER VS. WILMINGTON (NOVEMBER 1969).
BOTTOM: VITALY POTAPENKO’S SIGNED JERSEY. POTAPENKO PLAYED FOR WRIGHT STATE FROM 1994–1996 AND IN THE NBA FROM 1996–2008.



JAMES SILLERY '70
Member of first official Wright State sports team (Men’s Soccer, 1968)

“Other than the fact it is somewhat noteworthy I was a part of the first team, I don’t think I feel any differently about it than if I had been on the team in any other year. My main memories are of individuals. We had a great group of guys, and the camaraderie was great. I liked practices as much as games.”

NCAA DIVISION II		NCAA DIVISION I				1988 CURRENT				
1987 Baseball NCAA Tournament Runner-Up Women’s Basketball NCAA Regional	1992 Men’s Swimming Women’s Swimming	1994 Baseball Women’s Swimming	1996 Men’s Swimming Women’s Swimming	1998 Women’s Soccer	1986 Baseball NCAA Regional Men’s Basketball NCAA Quarterfinal	1990 Golf	1993 Men’s Basketball Women’s Swimming	1995 Baseball	1997 Men’s Swimming Women’s Swimming	1999 Women’s Soccer Women’s Swimming



HALLE PYLE '16, '18

Goalie

"My overall experience playing soccer at Wright State was an emotional roller coaster that taught me life lessons. If I was given the chance to go back and make any changes, there isn't a thing I would change. It helped me become who I am today."



TOP: WRIGHT STATE BASEBALL VS. UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON (MAY 1987).
BOTTOM: THE 1987 NCAA BASEBALL DIVISION II REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

his nine-year tenure. Key players on those teams included 1,000-point scorers guard Reggie Arceneaux (2011–15) and forward JT Yoho (2012–16).

Current Raider head coach Scott Nagy took the mantle beginning in the 2016–17 campaign. There has been an abundance of talent on his squads. Sharpshooting guard Grant Benzinger (2014–18), center Loudon Love (2017–21), guard Tanner Holden (2019–22), and forward Grant Basile. Each reached the prestigious 1,000-point plateau. Love also recorded the most rebounds in school history (1,123).

The Raiders have worn Horizon League championship rings twice and earned corresponding NCAA tournament bids in 2017–18 and 2021–22. Last year's appearance included a victory over Bryant 93-82 in the First Four. Wright State's first-ever NCAA tournament victory

heightened the hopeful aspirations for the program's future.

The inaugural season for the women's basketball team was 1973–74. Through the 1978–79 season, the team didn't win more than 10 games, but a turnaround started when guard Jodi Martin arrived in the fall of 1979. She tallied 2,055 points in her career, which held up as the school record until the torch was passed in 2015 to guard Kim Demmings. The win total rose to 17 when Martin was a first-year student-athlete, and was above 10 twice more through the end of her Raider career in 1983. Wright State would win at least 16 games during its last four seasons as a Division II program, culminating in a 24-6 campaign and a run to the NCAA tournament in 1986–87.

There was a dry spell during the first few decades in Division I. Through

2000



Golf



Women's Soccer

2002



Women's Swimming

2004



Golf



Men's Swimming



Women's Swimming

2006



Baseball



Women's Outdoor Track & Field
400 meters—Stephanie Francis (56:80)

2008



Men's Swimming

NCAA DIVISION I

2001



Men's Swimming



Women's Swimming

2003



Golf



Men's Swimming

2005



Men's Swimming

2007



Men's Basketball



Women's Outdoor Track & Field
200 meters—Tiffany Brigham (24:61)



Men's Swimming

2009



Baseball

the 2009–10 season, Wright State had a winning record twice. Despite this, 11 of the university’s all-time leading scorers would take to the court during this era. Each of those players, including guard LaShawna Thomas (2007–11), forward Reggen Stewart (1997–01), and Lori Collins (1991–94), are all members of the Wright State 1,000-point club.

Mike Bradbury took over as head coach for the 2010–11 season and soon ushered in a near-dynastic run of success. In his first year, the Raiders posted a 20-13 record and won a postseason tournament game. The following season’s team was full of offensive weapons with Demmings, guards Abby Jump and Courtney Boyd, and forward Breanna Stucke. They would go 21-13 and win another postseason tournament game.

After a 12-18 mark in 2012–13, a dream

team formed. In addition to the offensive threats listed above, the 2013–14 squad added defensive prowess with 6-foot forward Tayler Stanton and Rochelle van der Keijl, a 6-5 center from the Netherlands. Wright State cruised to a 26-9 overall record and crushed rival Green Bay 88-69 to capture the Horizon League tournament crown and the program’s first-ever NCAA Division I tournament berth.

“It’s always amazing to say you were the first to do something. I felt super proud that all my coaching staff and teammates’ hard work over the season paid off,” Demmings said. “The feeling of completing something that you set out to do is indescribable.”



TOP: WRIGHT STATE’S NETTIE CARTER (33) DURING A MARCH 1987 GAME AGAINST NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY. **WRIGHT STATE VOLLEYBALL VS. AGAINST BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY (OCTOBER 1988).**
BELOW: A FOAM FINGER, WORN BY CHEERLEADER KIMBERLY SCOTT, FROM WRIGHT STATE 1983 NCAA DIVISION II MEN’S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON.



NICK SCOTT '16
Golf

“Since graduating I have started my own marketing business, MRKT_U. The work ethic I learned from golf is being used to help the small businesses I work with grow on a daily basis. I also student-coached the golf team for a semester. The leadership and communication skills I learned have really helped in my profession. Being able to understand how someone thinks enables you to communicate with them successfully in a way they will enjoy and comprehend.”

2011

Baseball



Women’s Outdoor Track & Field
100 meters—Cassandra Lloyd & Heather Parrish (11:87)

400-meter hurdles—Emily Folino (1:01.23)

2014

Women’s Basketball

2017

Women’s Outdoor Track & Field
800 meters—Jessica Doecker (2:09.10)

NCAA DIVISION I

2012

Women’s Outdoor Track & Field
100-meter hurdles—Cassandra Lloyd (13:17)

2015

Baseball

2016

Baseball

2018

Baseball
 Men’s Basketball





SHELBY NOLAN '20, '22

Distance Runner

"My experience running for Wright State was nothing short of amazing. I was granted an opportunity to run DI despite not being very successful in high school. Thanks to the guidance of the coaches and support of the team, I climbed to the top of the Horizon League and ran times I never thought possible. I will forever cherish the opportunity I had to compete."



The 2014–15 season appeared to be in jeopardy when Demmings sustained a season-ending injury.

However, plenty of the role players from the previous season stepped forward. This was most notable with senior guard Tay'ler Mingo, who averaged 22.8 points per game and was named Horizon League Player of the Year. She would go on to play pro basketball in Spain. After a 25-9 campaign, the Raiders fell short of a second NCAA tournament berth but made the WNIT tournament.

In 2015–16, Demmings returned and would officially surpass Martin as the all-time Wright State scoring leader, finishing her career with 2,677 points. That team would go on to the WNIT once again.

Bradbury and van der Keijl departed for New Mexico the following season, opening the door for assistant coach Katrina Merriweather to move up.

Newer faces made Merriweather's team just as formidable. Guards Emily Vogelpohl, Mackenzie Taylor, Chelsea Welch, and Symone Simmons gave the offense plenty of flair. The next two seasons saw the Raiders pick up two more WNIT bids. Following the arrival of standout guard Angel Baker in 2018–19, Wright State made its second NCAA tournament appearance.

A 19-12 season in 2019–20 followed, but 2020–21 was literally a banner year. Though 19-8 in the regular season, the Raiders reached the mountain top yet again—the NCAA tournament. The third time was certainly a charm as Wright State stunned Southeastern Conference opponent Arkansas 66-62 for

2019

- Men's Cross Country
8k—Nathan Dunn (24:20)
- Women's Cross Country
6k—Shelby Nolan (21:16)
5k—Shelby Nolan (17:34)
- Golf
- Men's Soccer
- Women's Outdoor Track & Field
3,000-meter steeplechase—
Aurora Turner (10:34.66)
- Volleyball

2022

- Baseball
- Men's Basketball
- Volleyball

NCAA DIVISION I

2020

- Volleyball

2021

- Baseball
- Women's Basketball
- Women's Outdoor Track & Field
1,500 meters—Shelby Nolan (4:33.13)
5,000 meters—Shelby Nolan (16:29.42)
10,000 meters—Shelby Nolan (34:42.60)



a historic first-ever win in the big dance. Merriweather would go on to accept the head coaching position at Memphis, but she left an indelible mark.

Wright State has been a lot more than a basketball school throughout its 55-year history of sports. Including programs no longer competing, there have been 19 total. Women's bowling and men's track and field are new additions.

Over 60 regular season and conference titles have been captured. With this success, additional facilities have been built, such as the 30,000 square-foot Mills-Morgan Center/Setzer Pavilion for practices, strength and conditioning, player lounges, and coaching offices. Nischwitz Stadium opened for baseball in 2000.

Baseball has long been a top-notch university program. A total of 41 Wright State players have been selected in the MLB draft. Pitcher Joe Smith was drafted by the New York Mets in 2006 and has been a consistent veteran relief pitcher on several major league rosters. Catcher Sean Murphy became a fixture for the Oakland A's organization after being drafted in 2016, then was traded to the Atlanta Braves during the 2022 offseason. Between Divisions I and II, the team has made a trip to the NCAA tournament 20 times.

Another point of pride for Wright State athletics has been its academic success. Raider athletes have often achieved NCAA Athlete Progress Rate (APR) above the national average. To support this academic legacy, Demmings recently returned to the university this time as an academic advisor for athletics.

"I enjoy being able to help student-athletes who are in the same position I was in. Seeing them cross

the finish line is rewarding," Demmings said.

Bob Grant has been the university's athletic director since 2008. After being hired, Grant immediately instituted his P.S.A. philosophy, which means to focus on the person first, the student second, and athlete third. Particularly in the last few years, this has appeared to be a winning formula.

"I think by any measure, Wright State athletics is as strong as it's ever been," Grant said. "The last four years have provided unprecedented success, academically and athletically. Volleyball was our 13th team to make the NCAAs since 2018. In the previous 30-plus years of Division I, we only had 12 teams make it, so we are rolling. Ironically those best four years in our history have coincided with a pandemic and all kinds of other extraordinarily difficult headwinds."

The line, "Great deeds old inspire the new," from Wright State's Alma Mater seems to be ringing true. The blossoming program has a wealth of past achievements and could experience an even more bountiful modern era.



OPPOSITE PAGE: WRIGHT STATE WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. WISCONSIN (OCTOBER 1991).

TOP TO BOTTOM: WRIGHT STATE CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL (SEPTEMBER 1996); MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE GOLF TOURNAMENT (MAY 1997); NISCHWITZ STADIUM IS NAMED FOR RON NISCHWITZ, WHO COACHED THE RAIDERS FOR 30 YEARS, AND SON GREGG, WHO PLAYED FOR WRIGHT STATE FOR ONE SEASON BEFORE PASSING AWAY IN 1980 AT AGE 19.

Reel-life highlights

BY NICK PHILLIPS

“CHECK OUT THESE HIGHLIGHTS!”

These words aren't coming from the sports anchor on the local newscast. They're from volleyball student-athletes Megan Alders and Callie Martin, who call all the shots as the brains behind their own video production, the *Raider Recap*.

“*Raider Recap* is a show we created to highlight the student-athletes,” described Alders, a senior in her second year as the host of the weekly video series. “When we first started making the show, we wanted to give more credit to the student-athletes who were doing well in their sports, and it's also a fun way for people to interact with Wright State athletics.”

From hosting to production, and everything in between, the series has evolved from an idea by Alders in the fall of 2021 into a weekly must-see for Raider student-athletes and fans. The shows use video clips and commentary to condense into two minutes all the action from Wright State athletics over the previous week.

“Megan and I come into the athletic communications office each week,” Martin said of the process. “We write out our scripts, figure out what funny jokes we're going to make, write out all the stats and things we're going to talk about, sit at our desk and Nick [Phillips, assistant athletic director for

communications] hits 'record' and we get after it.”

“Sometimes it's a one-hit wonder and sometimes it takes 500 tries,” Alders added.

While the sports report on local news may only mention certain teams, Alders and Martin have one set plan weekly—recognize as many Raider student-athletes and teams for their performances as possible. In their first fall as co-hosts, the pair donned jerseys of the men's and women's soccer players who were named Horizon League Players of the Week, broke down the baseball team's Fall World Series while wearing the uniforms of the captains, and highlighted promotions like T-shirt giveaways at upcoming games.

“It's definitely fun when we see other student-athletes around and hear, ‘We saw ourselves on the *Raider Recap*!’ It's really fun being able to highlight those student-athletes, then seeing them be excited they were a part of the show,” Alders said.

“Our coach (Travers Green) also loves the show. I can say that verbatim. He's told me he thinks it's the best show ever. He always tweets each show and lets us know he watched it. One time he called us clowns, but we let it slide because it was a pretty funny joke.”

RAIDER RECAP
IS POSTED WEEKLY
ON THE WRIGHT STATE
ATHLETICS TWITTER ACCOUNT,
@WSURAIERS, AND ON ITS
FACEBOOK PAGE, WRIGHT
STATE UNIVERSITY
ATHLETICS



Megan Alders '23
Callie Martin '23

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RJ McCoy '18 helped design a new axle line through his internship with Navistar in Springfield, Ohio. He is now leading the way as one of their senior manufacturing engineers.



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MAY 6

5:00–10:00 p.m.

Wright State University
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heavy appetizers, and jumping entertainment.

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October 15–25, 2024

SCIENCE OF EXERCISE

Abigail Halsey '20, '22 has been very busy the past six years, but she has loved every minute of it. Halsey graduated from Wright State University for the second time this past fall, this time with a master's degree in physical education.

In addition to her studies, Halsey was a member of Wright State's women's track and field and cross country teams.

"I grew up playing sports. I played soccer my whole life and then I got into running, which is what I did at Wright State. It was a lot to balance with school, but I absolutely loved being able to do both," said Halsey, who earned a bachelor's degree in sports science, with a concentration in sports medicine, from Wright State in 2020.

Because of her love of sports, as well as believing they can be an important part of development for young people, she originally thought that a career supporting athletes, such as physical therapy, would be a natural fit. "That's why I chose the sports science route," she said.

However, during her time at Wright State, Halsey realized occupational therapy was more to her liking. After taking a certification course to become a certified autism exercise specialist, she found a lot of research showing children with autism showed a decrease in their stereotypical behaviors if they participated in aerobic exercise, such as running and walking, before completing daily activities and schoolwork. Neuromuscular exercise, which supports balance, coordination, and agility, has received a lot less research and attention. She wondered if it might have a similar effect. This inspired her to develop an eight week neuromuscular exercise program for children with autism as her master's project.

Long term, Halsey would like to continue working with children in an educational setting and aspires to design and open a gym for children with disabilities.

A graduate education will help Abigail reach her dreams and help others. What could our graduate programs do for your future?



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Giving back

By passing along experience, Kim Demmings '15, '19 helps student-athletes succeed

BY DENNIS BOVA

When Kim Demmings talks, student-athletes have learned it is a smart play to listen closely. She's been in their shoes—or sneakers—on the court and in the classroom. She passes along what she learned in both arenas that can help make them successful at Wright State and in life.

Demmings is not just any former athlete. At Wright State, she's the GOAT—Greatest of All Time. She starred as a guard on the Raiders women's basketball team from 2011–16, finishing her career having scored 2,677 points, which remains the most by any Wright State player, men's or women's, and the most in Horizon League history. Her jersey No. 4 is retired, a nod to her prowess on the court.

She did well in the classroom, too, earning a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership in 2015 and a master's in sports management in 2019.

Demmings now uses her talents as the university's academic advisor in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, a role she assumed in July after being an administrator and coach in the department since 2017.

It all started on the playgrounds of her native Richmond, Indiana. "I was 6 or 7," she said. "I picked up a ball and was just good at it." Elementary school presented the opportunity to start playing organized basketball, where she excelled and learned the fundamentals.

Then came high school—and academic problems. "My freshman and sophomore years were rough," Demmings said. Then-Wright State women's basketball coach Mike Bradbury, came to one of her high school games and stressed the importance of good grades.

Demmings said Bradbury's talk motivated her to do better—and she did. She made a recruiting visit to Wright State and was sold.

"When I got here my freshman year, I was around a great group of coaches and people in the athletic department," Demmings said. "I was given the tools and the resources to be a success academically and athletically. We had pride in the classroom as well as on the court."

Wright State won 20 or more games four times in Demmings' five years, including a Horizon League championship and NCAA tournament appearance in 2014.

She rebounded from a season-ending foot injury in the 2014–15 season opener to be named Horizon League Player of the Year as a senior.

After graduation, she played professionally in Israel, then reconnected with Wright State under then-coach Katrina Merriweather and worked her way up in the department to where she is today.

She meets with roughly 200 Raider student-athletes from all intercollegiate sports. She asks about their goals and creates a plan with them “to navigate their four or five years at Wright State. I do the best I can to keep them academically eligible and have them understand what that means.”

Demmings makes sure each student-athlete is registered for classes, competing, and that “they have their path toward their diploma and they’re eligible to play.”

Talking from experience, she tells them, “I’ve done it; you can do it too, academically and athletically.”

Those conversations allow Demmings to become “a small piece of the overall picture” in student-athletes’ lives, she said.

“Kim is one of the most sincere and down-to-earth people I know,” said Robert

Ray, associate athletics director. “I trust her completely as a colleague and as someone our student-athletes go to for guidance. She’s honest. She speaks with a depth of goodwill and common sense, and she genuinely cares about the students as people and does her best to support them.”

“Kim has always been incredibly humble,” said Brandon Hays, associate athletic director of external operations, “to the point where I get a bit of an eye roll every time I explain to a group of student-athletes that she’s the best we’ve ever seen on the court here at Wright State. If it were up to her, she wouldn’t even mention that she played here. I was just such a fan of hers during my first stint at Wright State (2012–15) that I have to share anytime we’re both in front of a group of student-athletes. It’s so cool she’s here giving back to them.”

“I’m hoping people see me as giving back,” Demmings said. “I’m trying to create the positive environment that was made for me.”

She added, “The goal is for them to have a great student-athlete experience, then get them into the world to have success. I take great pride in doing that.”

Demmings’ work with student-athletes has helped Wright State remain consistently competitive across the athletic program.

“We’re punching above our weight class,” she said, noting that Wright State competes successfully in Division I against larger schools. “We bring in the right people to be successful. We’ve proven that we do belong in Division I.”

Demmings is aware she’s helping future Raider alumni. “Being an alumna means something to me,” she said. “Working with future alumni is wholesome.”

She has a message for fellow alumni: “Come out and support our teams, support athletics. We care about them as people and as students and as athletes.”

As for herself and her future, Demmings says, “My feet are here and I’m putting everything I can into being a great academic advisor.”



WRIGHT STATE’S KIM DEMMINGS (4) DRIBBLES UPCOURT DURING A 2016 GAME AGAINST OAKLAND AT THE NUTTER CENTER.

PHOTO CREDIT: TIM ZECHAR



IN A NOD TO HER ELITE CAREER, KIM DEMMINGS’ JERSEY WAS RETIRED DURING A 2018 CEREMONY AT WRIGHT STATE.

PHOTO CREDIT: ALLISON RODRIGUEZ



WRIGHT DAY TO GIVE AT WARPED WING



BOURBON TOUR



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Wright State Alumni Association strives to offer a variety of opportunities to bring alumni together. Whether you like to travel, enjoy family-friendly events, get dressed up, or get together with folks from your college, there is an event for you! Our Raider and Laker alumni have fun and make an impact wherever they go.

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ALUMNI BEER TASTING

FAREWELLS

2010s

Robert Elkins '11
Athena Griffin '18
Joseph Hall '13

2000s

Treva Bitler '05
Shawn Goltzene '02
Emily Kempfer '03
Nicole Starline '06

1990s

Joyce Arrasmith '90
Kirt Bulp '96
Linda Cox '92
Leslie Feld '97
Paula Holsapple '96
Phillip Jacobs '98
Douglas McKay '97
Tami Perez '90
Michelle Royer '95
Phyllis Youtz '91

1980s

Melody Blain '89
Cheryl Brown '84
Mary Ann Caldwell '86
David Girbert '82
Mark McCarty '82
Nancy Miller '80
Thomas Miner '80
Timothy O'Kane '82
Carole Stafford '80
Michael Sturni '87
August Szempruch '80

1970s

Victor Fleet '73
Miriam Harman '74
Donna Hausser '71
Kirk Kimbel '78
Donald Knife '74
Richard Little '77
Patricia Metcalf '75
Donna Rankin '74
Richard Roy '77
Donna Runkle '73
Carolus "Carl"
Schneider '74
David Treadway '73

FACULTY AND STAFF

JoAnn Lesta Black
Donald Edward Borowy, Jr.
Daniel Edward
DeStephen, Ph.D.
Robert Dan
"Bob" Dixon, Ph.D.
Willard "Will"
Hutzel, Ph.D.
Karen (Robinson)
Laycock '02
Marc Edmon Low, Ph.D.
Allen Louis K. Nagy, Ph.D.
Julia Reichert
Patricia "Patty"
O'Malley Walker
Gordie Wise
Jeffrey Zentner '98

We rely on family and newspaper obituaries to inform us of the passing of Wright State alumni, faculty, staff, and retirees. This list was compiled between July 2022 and January 2023. Please send all death notices to alumni_news@wright.edu.

PROFESSOR OF MARKETING AND WRIGHT STATE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCER

Gordie Wise

Gordie Wise, a longtime Wright State professor, public address announcer, and Athletics Hall of Fame member, passed away September 23, 2022. He was 88.

"Gordie was one of the icons of Wright State athletics," Wright State Director of Athletics Bob Grant stated. "He played an instrumental role in building our athletic department and teams from the ground up, and, through the years, his 'Raider Roundball' catchphrase became synonymous with Wright State basketball. Gordie was a warm, generous, and unbelievably kind man, a true friend, and gentleman."

Wise played an integral role in Wright State athletics for its first half-century. He was a member of the original committee that studied the feasibility of starting an athletic program. Wise wrote the original Constitution for the Athletic Council and was its first chair, serving on the council for 21 years.

After Wright State became a member of the NCAA, Wise was appointed faculty athletics representative, a post he held for 19 years.

Wise's name and voice are most widely recognizable to Raider fans as the public address announcer for men's basketball for an astonishing 49 years—from the first season of the program through the 2018–19 season. He was inducted into the Wright State Athletics Mary and Al Schwarz Hall of Fame in 2019.

Wise retired in 2012 after 51 years as a college professor—a career opportunity Wise said he considered a total blessing and a major contributor to living a long and happy life. This included 46 years of teaching in the Raj Soin College of Business at Wright State.

Prior to that, Wise was a physical education and social studies teacher and coach at Springcreek School in Piqua. His career saw him rise through the ranks from instructor to assistant professor, and associate professor to professor. He became an professor emeritus of marketing following retirement.

Throughout his career, he won numerous awards for teaching, research (scholarship), and service, both internal and professional.

For more than 30 years, Wise was a marketing researcher and consultant to businesses, nonprofits, and over 60 school districts in Ohio and beyond. That included key roles in researching, planning, and executing campaigns in Piqua for bond issues and operating levies.

In 2016, he was honored by the Piqua Chamber of Commerce with the Order of George award, the community's highest service award.

He also holds the unique distinction of having captured the intramural basketball free throw shooting championships at three universities: Miami University, Wright State (three times), and Indiana University.

Wise earned both a B.S. and an M.B.A. from Miami University before becoming a Wright State legend.



PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MOTION PICTURES

Julia Reichert

Julia Reichert, a longtime film professor at Wright State University known as the “godmother of American independent documentaries,” passed away at her home in Yellow Springs on December 1, 2022. She was 76.

Over her 50-year career as a filmmaker and teacher, Reichert was an active builder of the American documentary community. Her films, co-directed with longtime Wright State professor Jim Klein and later with former Wright State faculty member and alumnus Steven Bognar, have given voice to women and working people, infusing their stories with urgency and dignity.

Reichert, professor emeritus of motion pictures, and Bognar won the Academy Award for best feature documentary for *American Factory* in February 2020. It also received the Best Directing Award for U.S. Documentary at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

“What makes her such an impactful educator and mentor is that she’s spent her life telling the stories of everyday, overlooked people with compassion and real appreciation for their dreams and struggles,” said Joe Deer, artistic director and distinguished professor of musical theatre.

Professor emeritus Stuart McDowell said, “Her life will live on in the work that she has done. It will also live on in her students, who will in turn train other filmmakers, because the generosity

of spirit that she manifested in her life was unique and it’s a real blessing and a gift.”

For 28 years, Reichert was a professor of film production at Wright State and mentored dozens of emerging filmmakers. While celebrating her 2020 Oscar at Wright State, she encouraged students who want to make documentaries to embrace the unpredictable nature of the filmmaking process.

“Julia was exceptionally talented and much loved in the community,” said President Sue Edwards. “The world was a better place for her being a part of it.”

“We are extremely saddened to hear the news of the passing of Oscar-winning documentarian Julia Reichert. Her contributions as a professor, artist, and tireless advocate for social justice have made our community and country a better place,” said Gary Schmidt, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Memorial contributions in honor of Julia Reichert can be made to the motion pictures program at Wright State by visiting wright.edu/give/mopixfund.



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AFF686950-26 CW 2019/10

RAIDER EVENTS



APRIL
22

Spring Alumni Service Day

Alumni Service Day is an opportunity for our alumni, friends, and family to give back to the community and further Wright State's longstanding tradition of community service.



Rowdy at the Races

Formerly Rowdy Gras, this event has the same opportunities as Rowdy Gras, just with a derby twist! Come dressed in your finest derby attire and enjoy gaming and raffle prizes.



JUNE
8

47th Annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing

Join us for a beautiful day of golf at the 47th Annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing. Proceeds will benefit Wright State student scholarships.



JUNE
11

Wright State Day at Kings Island

Each year, the Wright State Alumni Association invites students, alumni, and friends for a day of fun at Kings Island. Bring your family and come ride all your favorites.

For more information and to get tickets for upcoming events, visit wrightstatealumni.com/events.

APRIL 22
Last day of spring classes

APRIL 28-29
Spring Commencement

MAY 3
Raider on the Rocks

MAY 8
First day of summer classes

AUGUST 28
First day of fall classes

SEPTEMBER 2-3
Wine Tour

OCTOBER 10-20
Radiant Spring & Italy

DECEMBER 9
Last day of fall classes

DECEMBER 15-16
Fall Commencement

CLASS NOTES

'71 **LAWRENCE "KEN" HARMON (M.B.A.)** has been conferred the title of associate professor emeritus by Virginia Tech, College of Engineering.

'77 **JEFFREY MIMS (M.Ed.)** has been selected by the National League of Cities to serve as the chair of the organization's Mayors' Education Task Force.

'79 **WILLIAM LaFAYETTE (B.S., M.B.A.)** owns and operates Regionomics, LLC in Lockbourne, Ohio. **ROB POLLARD (B.S.Ed.)** has been inducted as part of Guided By Voices into the Dayton Region Walk of Fame. **RICK STOVER (B.S.)** has received the Distinguished Service Award from Financial Executives International for his many services to the businesses of the Dayton area.

'80 **JAMES ROGERS (B.S.B.)** has joined TKO Miller of Milwaukee, WI, as managing director and co-head of its industrial services practice.

'82 **BRUCE CROMER (B.F.A.)** has retired from the role of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* after 25 years with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

'83 **MARK BENBOW (M.A.)** released his latest book *Woodrow Wilson's Wars: The Making of America's First Modern Commander in Chief*, released by The Naval Institute Press.

'87 **BRADLEY COBB (B.S.)** has been appointed judge to the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court of Wayne County, MI. **KEVIN HARLAN (B.S.)**, has been named president of Atrium Medical Center, Middletown, OH.

'90 **ERIC JACK (M.B.A.)** is retiring after 10 years as dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Collat School of Business. **ROBERT MURNER (M.B.A.)** is the new director of the Carlyse and Arthur A. Ciocca '59 Center for Business, Ethics, and Society at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

'91 **JULIE (HARRIS) MANGAN (B.F.A.)** has a display of her works in the Conti Family Community Room by The Friends of the New Providence Memorial Library in New Providence, NJ.

'92 **RANDALL FRANZ (M.D.)** is the medical director of vascular and endovascular surgery with Methodist Medical Group—Vascular Surgery in Memphis, TN. **CONNIE MEIRING**

(B.S.) has been named the vice president of operations for Minster Bank, Minster, OH. **GERALDINE PEGUES (B.A.)** has been named the assistant county administrator of human services for Montgomery County, Dayton.

'93 **MIKE THIRTLE (M.B.A.)** is heading up The Gary Sinise Foundation based in Nashville, TN.

'94 **BRIAN BLUM (B.S.Ed.)** has been hired as superintendent for Maysville schools in Newton Township, OH.

'95 **NICOLE McDONALD (B.A.)** has been named senior vice president for transformation initiatives at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC.

'96 **WILLIAM DOEBLER (B.S.)** has been promoted to associate and shareholder of Barton & Loguidice of Buffalo, NY. **DAN HOCKENSMITH (B.A.)** is a writer/editor for ISRI

News (Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.) of Washington, D.C. **KENNETH PATRICK (M.Ed.)** has been promoted to divisional president of Great American Insurance Group for agribusiness.

'97 **THOMAS JENKINS (B.S.Ed.)** has been selected to serve as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow for the 2022–23 school year with the Department of Defense Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in Washington, D.C.

'01 **JULIANNE KREBS (M.S.)** has been promoted to dean of health sciences at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro, OH. **BRANDON JASPER (B.S.)** has purchased Schuerholz Printing of Kettering, OH, which will become a franchise of Minuteman Press.

'02 **JUSTIN BRADBURY (B.A.)** has been promoted the assistant police chief for the Covington, KY, police department.

MARTIN FAHRER '89

In the world of television, Martin Fahrer is killing it, in both success and subject matter. And what he does so well has earned him an Emmy for a primetime TV show.

The show is *Only Murders in the Building*, a mystery-comedy-drama series in which characters played by Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selena Gomez work together to investigate a death in their apartment building.

Fahrer won for Outstanding Production Design for a Narrative Program. He was an assistant art director on the show from 2020 to 2021.

It's not his first killing, though. Fahrer has won six other Emmys—daytime Emmys in Outstanding Achievement in Art Direction/Set Decoration/Scenic Design, also as an assistant art director.

A haunting experience launched his career. His parents ran a Halloween haunted house attraction in Wilmington, Ohio, where they lived. As a youngster, Fahrer helped build and decorate the house, and acted in it. He was in a couple musicals in high school, which led him to enroll at Wilmington College, where "I fell in love with theatre," he said.

"I wanted to find the best undergraduate program around. That was at Wright State." He transferred from Wilmington for his final two years and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre design/technology. "I really enjoyed it."

He was encouraged to pursue a master's degree in design, which he did at New York University. He did freelance theatre design, then, "I got this gig for television. It was a small gig, but it paid really well. I thought 'Wow, this is great.' That's when I realized I could make a living telling a story by creating a space."

Now based in New York City, Fahrer said, "One of my best decisions ever was to go to Wright State—to get that experience painting, being a scenic artist." He added that he enjoys using scenery to enhance the plot.

"Wright State's been great to me. I'm always happy to come back to talk with students."



MICHAELA WOODS '16, '18

Most who stroll in a forest think of the soil beneath their feet as just dirt. Not so for Michaela Woods.

Her study of soil and forests was part of an article in *Science* magazine. Woods, who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in biological sciences from Wright State in 2016 and 2018, respectively, was listed as a co-author for her part in the research paper, "Termite sensitivity to temperature affects global wood decay rates," published in the September 2022 issue. The article focuses on a global study that explored how decomposition rates vary with temperature and precipitation.

Woods said even a teaspoon of soil contains millions of microorganisms that interact with wood in forests. Dead wood in forests contains a large portion of carbon, which, when released based on microorganisms' activity, can influence climate change.

She conducted her research in Runkle Woods on Wright State's Dayton Campus over a two-year period.

"Being published in *Science* is extremely exciting since it is a top journal in the field," Woods said. "It was really empowering to be a part of a team generating impactful results with global implications."

Woods chose Wright State because it was close to her home in Lebanon, Ohio, with a community of student commuters. "I started with a pre-medical focus. I was interested in the health sciences. As I took courses in ecology, I got interested in living and non-living things in the environment. I started asking questions about how soil interacts with the living components in forests.

"Wright State was really helpful," she said. "The course offerings were really broad, so I could explore a lot of topics to find what research I was interested in. The faculty was supportive and helped me find the right lab and the right people to support me and help me grow."

Woods is pursuing a Ph.D. in biology at the University of Dayton, researching conservation and forest restoration. She added, "I'm still in contact with faculty at Wright State. It's been a lasting, beneficial relationship for me to have their guidance."



'03 **TIFFANY SHIEVLY (B.S.B.)** has been named the new treasurer for the Triad Local School District, North Lewisburg, OH.

SAMANTHA STEVENS (B.S.) has joined Founder Sport Groups of Statesville, NC, as their senior director of licensing and business development.

'04 **BRIANNA (STOUT) WILKOFF (B.S.)** released her debut novel, *I'll Be There for You*, published by Winding Road Stories.

'05 **JAMES HOLM (B.S.B.)** has been appointed as chief financial officer of the Cronos Group Inc, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

MICHELLE LINK (B.S.Ed.) has been appointed principal at Longfellow Primary School in Sidney, OH. **CORY SCHEADLER (B.S.)** was inducted into the Brown County Athletic Hall of Fame, Mt. Orab, OH.

'07 **J. D. WINTEREGG (M.Ed.)** has opened Oh Crepe in Troy, OH, a crepe shop featuring crepes, pastries, coffee, and gelato.

'08 **HEIDI YOUNT (M.D.)** has been appointed to the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians' Board of Directors as the West Central Regional director in Arcanum, OH.

'09 **JARED SHANK (B.A.)** is the senior director of military and apprenticeship initiatives and special projects at the Department of Higher Education in Columbus, OH.

'10 **ASHLEY STAMPER (B.A.)** has been the first selected for the Virtual English Language Educator Program for academic year 2022-23 for the U.S. Department of State. **BRETT STEWART (B.S.)** is the new Urbana Elementary School assistant principal, Urbana, OH.

'11 **STANLEY FRAZIER (B.A.)** has been hired as the assistant athletic director, marketing and fan engagement at Kent State, Kent, OH. **A. J. WOODS (B.S.Ed.)** has been hired as new dean of students and athletic director for Southeastern Local School District, Springfield, OH.

'12 **KATHRYN HALBERG (M.B.A.)** will release her fifth book in June 2023. *Tourist Attraction* is part of the shared-destination series Flamingo Island, with each book written by a different published contemporary romance author.

'13 **BETTY KELLY (M.P.H.)** has been elected general pediatrician at large representative of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Update your information with the Alumni Association to receive the monthly *Alumni Insider* e-newsletter, full of events, athletics updates, and university news.



Visit wrightstatealumni.com/UpdateMyInfo to add updated information.

ART: VECTEEZY.COM

'14 **KEITH BRICKING (M.B.A.)** has been named chief clinical officer for Premier Health/Atrium Medical Center in Middletown, OH. **BEVIN DUCKETT (B.S.M.E.)** has won the Early Career Award at Jet Propulsion Labs. She is the first Midwest entry-level employee hired from a non-ivy league school. **MATT EVANS (B.S.Ed.)** has been appointed principal at Payne Elementary School in Wayne Trace School District in Wayne, OH.

'15 **TRENT ARNOLD (B.S.)** has been hired as associate director of athletic compliance by Florida Tech.

'17 **WILLIAM KAN (B.M.)** has been accepted in the U.S. Army band, Pershing's Own, as a percussionist. He is currently stationed at Fort Hood, TX. **NICK MOSHOS (B.S.)**, owner and operator of Dot's Market, will open a new store in Cross Pointe Center in Centerville, OH, in 2023.

'19 **ANNETTE (SHEGA) HUELSKAMP (B.S.N.)** has won the Female Artist of the Year at the KMA Music Awards 2022.

Share your success with fellow alumni. Submit your class notes and updates at wrightstatealumni.com/classnotes.

ARREAL RIGGS '22

Army veteran Arreal Riggs said things have been improving for him since graduating in summer 2022 from Wright State's Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management program. But then, the nine-year veteran had a bit of ground to make up since leaving the military as a staff sergeant. He had struggled with the transition to civilian life and with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).



He credits Wright State's Veteran and Military Center and the university in general for helping with the transition. He's turned his attention to helping fellow veterans who suffer the same challenges with PTSD.

Riggs' civilian job as a contractor based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base recently took him to Germany. Part of his time there was devoted to the Heroic Hearts Project. According to the group's website, Heroic Hearts establishes "a healing community that helps veterans suffering from military trauma recover and thrive by providing them with safe, supervised access to psychedelic treatments, professional coaching, and ongoing peer support."

The treatment with psychedelic substances takes place near Ramstein Air Force Base with local U.S. veterans, and in London with United Kingdom and U.S. veterans, Riggs said. The nonprofit group hopes the treatment will earn Federal Drug Administration approval in 2023.

The treatment is meant to heal the veterans "so they have a fulfilling life," Riggs said.

Riggs is trying to lift the level of awareness of Heroic Hearts, not only for funding by donors, but also for the attention of veterans. "Most veterans don't like asking for help," he said. But the help is critical.

Personally, Riggs said, "My progress has been going great. I'm thankful for the Wright State family. They kept me on track. I'm forever thankful for Wright State."

Be the key to our future success

As you plan for tomorrow, unlock opportunities for future generations of Wright State students.

The Office of Planned Giving can help you unlock the door of opportunities through a charitable bequest in your estate plans.

To learn more, please contact:

Wright State University Foundation
Office of Planned Giving

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FOUNDATION



A View of Dayton

Lining up telephone poles and the landscape

BY JANE WILDERMUTH, HEAD OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES AND LISA RICKEY '05, '08, ARCHIVIST AND COLLECTION MANAGER, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

“Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.”

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

In March 1876, the United States Patent Office granted Alexander Graham Bell patent number 174465A for a method of transmitting speech by telegraphy—the telephone. Two years later, Bell’s invention made its way to Dayton, with little regulation to control or guide its implementation.

In 1879, over a span of months, multiple companies—National Bell Telephone Exchange, Western Union Telephone Co., Bell Telephone Exchange, and Edison Telephone Co.—erected a haphazard patchwork of poles and lines.

By 1923, following phone company consolidations, the Ohio Bell Telephone Company was the area’s only telephone provider. It notified the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) of substantial rate increases.

The City of Dayton objected, filed a complaint with PUCO, and hired electrical engineer Elijah Ellsworth Brownell to serve as an expert witness and to secure data on how Ohio Bell arrived at the valuation figures used to justify the rate increase.



WIRES CRISSCROSSING ON BROWN STREET, AT WARREN STREET, LOOKING NORTH.



LEFT: WHIPP ROAD AT LEBANON PIKE (FAR HILLS AVENUE), LOOKING WEST, SHOWN IN GOOGLE MAPS TODAY (TOP) AND IN 1923.

ABOVE: SOUTH BROWN STREET, JUST SOUTH OF FIFTH STREET, LOOKING NORTH, SHOWN IN GOOGLE MAPS TODAY (LEFT) AND IN 1923.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

In an article that appeared in the *Dayton Daily News* on March 4, 1923, Brownell wrote, “We have hundreds of miles of duplicate duct feet of conduit, and hundreds of miles of poles of duplicate pole lines upon our streets, and many hundreds of miles of duplicate aerial lead-sheath cover telephone cables and open wires.” He goes on to say, “We are wondering who is to pay for this evil and if the innocent telephone subscriber will again be called upon to assume the losses.”

In March 1923, Brownell compiled a book of 113 photographs documenting the locations of telephone poles and lines in Dayton and rural Montgomery County. Presumably, Brownell’s photographs were used to further the city’s effort to prevent the rate increases.

One hundred years later, the photographs serve a different purpose. They provide snapshots in time, often

depicting major road intersections and the surrounding land and buildings.

Some of the scenes look familiar, such as Photo No. 10, on South Brown Street, just south of Fifth, looking north (shown above in a mashup with a Google Maps image, under Fair Use).

And some of the scenes look quite different—as one might expect from nearly 100 years of change—such as the scene in Photo No. 80, Whipp Road at Lebanon Pike (Far Hills Avenue), looking west.

View the collection online at CORE Scholar at corescholar.libraries.wright.edu, Wright State University’s institutional repository. All images in the online gallery have been geo-tagged with the exact location the photo was taken. For more information on the collections in the University Libraries Special Collections and Archives, visit libraries.wright.edu/special.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT 2023
Awards
WRIGHT STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Announcing the
winners of the 2023
Wright State Alumni Association
Alumni Achievement Awards!

The Alumni Association celebrates the accomplishments of Wright State alumni. These outstanding individuals are recognized for numerous accomplishments in their chosen fields. In addition to possessing high standards of integrity and character, they have also given their time and talent to benefit the university.

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award: Aurea L. Rivera '82

Alumnus of the Year Award: Mark J. Espy '81

Volunteer Service Award: Stephen R. Hampton '80

Graduate of the Last Decade Award: Christina E. Knowles '14, '16

Honorary Alumni Award: Virginia Krause Hess



Scan the QR code or visit
wright.edu/2023-alumni-achievement-awards
to read more about the winners.

Submit a nomination
for next year's Wright State University
Alumni Achievement Awards at
wrightstatealumni.com.





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JOIN US!

JUNE 8

It's the 47th Annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing!

Visit wrightstatealumni.com/golf to play or to be a sponsor.

Thursday, June 8

7:30 a.m. • Registration opens

8:30 a.m. • Shotgun start

*Lunch included following the Golf Outing,
with a short awards program*



**Beaver Creek
Golf Club**

BEAVERCREEK GOLF CLUB
2800 New Germany Trebein Rd
Beavercreek, Ohio 45431