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Wright State

MAGAZINE

A CITY OF
Gems

Alumni are leading the charge in the resurgence of downtown Dayton

A NETFLIX ORIGINAL:
CHRISTUNG '12

WE ARE
#WRIGHTSTATESTRONG

WANT EDUCATION.
WILL TRAVEL.



Dear *Wright State Magazine* reader,

As we were going to press for this issue, a horrific and senseless tragedy struck the Dayton and Wright State communities in the early hours of August 4, 2019. Our hearts were immediately broken for the victims’ families and for our beloved city. Our campus community was devastated to receive the information that a Wright State student was among the victims. In addition, several other members of our Wright State community were seriously impacted by the events.

Being sensitive to the fact that these events occurred just days after press time, the entire editorial board of the *Wright State Magazine*, the Wright State Alumni Association, and the Wright State University Foundation would like to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of all the victims. We would also like to thank the people around the world who have reached out to embrace the hurting people of Dayton and Wright State. We hear you and we thank you.

This issue features two stories that specifically speak to the resiliency of this great community—our cover story about the rebirth of downtown Dayton titled “A City of Gems” and “We are #WrightStateStrong,” a feature focusing on the recovery efforts by members of Wright State athletics following the touchdown of several tornadoes in the region in May. We hope when you read these stories, you will be inspired by our alumni, students, faculty, and staff who have taken it upon themselves to pitch in, work hard, and make our community a great place to be. This is our home and it is indestructible. We will not be broken. We will rally. We will rise. We are #DaytonStrong.

Thank you for your readership and support.

Sincerely,

The *Wright State Magazine* editorial board

A DOWNTOWN REBORN

In 2008, the recession hit downtown Dayton *hard*. However, this presented an opportunity for the city to reinvent itself. In 2009, a group of business and community leaders came together to create a local, community-wide effort to build a real future for Dayton’s urban core. More than 200 leaders—many of them Wright State alumni—gathered to create a plan to bring downtown Dayton back.

Now, downtown Dayton is thriving and hundreds of alumni have contributed immensely to downtown’s success. Nearly **5,200 alumni** work or live within downtown Dayton’s urban landscape. They are taking leading roles in transforming Dayton back into the spearhead of industry and innovation it once was. Downtown Dayton is alive again.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dayton rising

Greetings!
Welcome to this issue of the *Wright State Magazine*.

We are proud to dedicate our cover story to the Wright State University alumni who have helped contribute to the rebirth of downtown Dayton. Since I became president of Wright State two years ago, my family and I have felt incredibly blessed to live in such a welcoming and thriving community.

From our vibrant and burgeoning downtown to the peace and tranquility of our parks and countryside, the Dayton and west central Ohio region is a wonderful place to work and raise a family. But what truly sets us apart is the people. This was never more apparent than during this past Memorial Day weekend.

As the holiday weekend began, Dayton united against hate to show that love always triumphs over fear as a small group of Ku Klux Klan members demonstrated on Courthouse Square in downtown Dayton. Our region's resilient spirit rose once again as devastating tornadoes ravaged communities near our Dayton and Lake campuses in the final hours of Memorial Day.

We are grateful that our campuses were spared any major damage, but neighbors throughout Raider Country were not as fortunate. Many, including some in our own Wright State family, lost their homes. In challenging times, the Wright State family always comes together and supports one another.

I want to personally thank everyone who contributed to the Wright State Disaster Relief Fund, established by the Wright State Alumni Association to help provide food, water, shelter, and clothing to students, faculty, staff, and alumni impacted by the destruction. Thanks to your generosity, more than \$22,695 has been raised (as of June 15) from 326 donors to help Wright



State families during this difficult time. We are #DaytonStrong. We are #CelinaStrong. We are #WrightStateStrong.

On a much happier note and in the spirit of community building, I would like to invite you to join me on Saturday, October 5, for the inaugural Festival of Flight. The free all-day festival, which will take place on the grounds behind the Wright State University Nutter Center, will celebrate flight and highlight the Miami Valley's rich aviation heritage.

Wright State is proud to co-sponsor the Festival of Flight with the City of Fairborn and the Wright State Alumni Association, in partnership with the Dayton Regional STEM School, the Miami Valley Restaurant Association, the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, and the National Aviation Hall of Fame, with participation by the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. I hope to see you at this fun-filled, educational day for the entire family!

Warmest regards,

Cheryl B. Schrader
Cheryl B. Schrader, Ph.D.
President

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In the last 10 years, downtown Dayton has experienced a significant rebirth in development and economic advances—thanks, in part, to these 12 Wright State alumni.

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Preeclampsia is a leading cause of maternal and infant illness and death worldwide, but Thomas Brown, Ph.D., is trying to change that.



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ON THE COVER A vibrant, thriving city center is crucial to the prosperity of any American city, but especially to Dayton. Our cover story explores how more than 5,000 alumni living or working in downtown Dayton are at the forefront of its transformation back into a city of industry and innovation—a city of gems.

IN WRIGHT STATE WE TRUST

On Monday, May 27, our campuses in Dayton and Celina fell in the path of multiple tornadoes that caused irreparable damage to many homes and businesses in the area. Many people in the area, including many members of our Wright State family, were left without shelter, water, and power.

Each day since the storms ripped through the region, our students and employees have volunteered in the community to help clean up debris. Among the students were members of Wright State's Student Government Association, Greek fraternities and sororities, athletics teams, and Campus Recreation, as well as many more individuals from across campus.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS



931 HOURS
128 VOLUNTEERS

WRIGHT STATE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The Wright State University Alumni Association created the Wright State Disaster Relief Fund to help impacted Wright State students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

\$22,695

RAISED AS OF JUNE 15, 2019

326 SUPPORTERS TO THE FUND
52 INDIVIDUALS HELPED THROUGH FUNDS RAISED

HOUSING



55
INDIVIDUALS OR
FAMILIES HOUSED
IN HAMILTON HALL

DINING SERVICES



1,800
BOTTLES OF
WATER DONATED



1,000
FREE MEALS PROVIDED
TO THOSE DISPLACED

**Figures above are as of June 15, 2019*

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TAKING FLIGHT
Wright State is tied to a history of exceptional ingenuity thanks to our namesakes, the Wright brothers. This fall, we will celebrate the anniversary of Wilbur's 39-minute flight on Huffman Prairie on October 5, 1905—the same day we will launch the inaugural Festival of Flight, celebrating the region's aviation heritage. Scattered around the region are several nods to the brothers' lasting legacy as aviation pioneers.

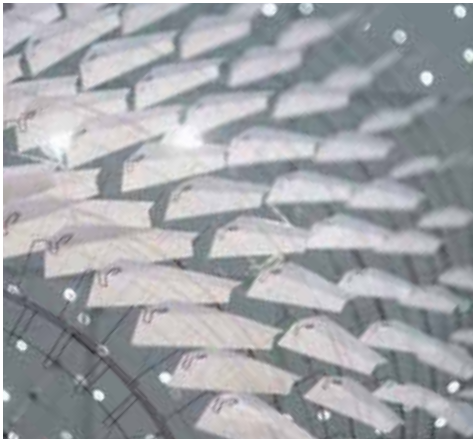


PHOTO CREDIT: ERIN PENCE



SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Amanda Wright Lane receives honorary degree at spring commencement

Amanda Wright Lane, great grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Wright State University at Spring Commencement May 4.

Wright Lane is the fourth member of the Wright family to receive an honorary degree from Wright State. Her great aunt and uncle, Ivonette Wright Miller and Horace Wright, received honorary degrees in 1981, and her father, Wilkinson Wright, was honored in 1999.

“I consider it a high, high honor,” she said. “I was so proud the day my dad received his degree; his passion for this university was so evident. And I believe I caught that passion too!”

She said the honorary degree is wonderful recognition of the volunteer work she has done at the university “just as my father and great aunt and uncle did before me.”



MODEL U.N. TEAM WINS TOP HONORS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

For the 40th consecutive year, the Model United Nations team won top honors at the National Model U.N. Conference March 24–28 in New York City. Competing with teams from 193 universities from around the world, Wright State was one of only 27 schools to receive an Outstanding Delegation Award, the highest recognition possible.

Wright State President Cheryl B. Schrader joined the Model U.N. team in New York.

CLUB SPORTS

Women’s Club Bowling

The women’s club bowling team **won the 2019 Collegiate Club National Championship**, beating West Texas A&M 3-0 in the finals of the tournament in Indianapolis April 7. It is the team’s first national title since 2015.

ATHLETICS

Women’s Basketball

The women’s basketball team won a thrilling 55-52 battle over Green Bay **to claim the Little Caesars Horizon League Tournament championship** March 12 in Detroit.

The Raiders, who earned the top seed in the tournament by winning the league’s regular season title, clinched the program’s second trip to the NCAA tournament. The Raiders fell to No. 4-seed Texas A&M 84-61 in College Station, Texas, but ended their season with 27 wins, the most ever by a Wright State women’s basketball team.

ATHLETICS

Men’s Golf

The golf team **won its sixth Horizon League title** and first since 2004 as the Raiders came from behind to seal the victory April 23 at the El Campeón Golf Course in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla.

The Raiders then moved on to their fifth NCAA tournament appearance, finishing 13th in the Washington State regional.

LAKE CAMPUS

Lake Campus building project will provide needed space for growing nursing program

The newest construction project at Wright State University–Lake Campus will provide needed space for the blossoming nursing program thanks in part to support from the Mercer County Health Care Foundation.

The Mercer County Health Care Foundation has donated \$300,000 to support Lake Campus’ Extension Building Project.

The building project will add approximately 7,000 square feet to Andrews Hall for a new Library and Technology Center, science education classroom and research lab, and space for the Lake Campus Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program.

Lake Campus broke ground on the \$2.8 million project in the fall of 2018. Construction is expected to be completed by the start of the fall 2019 semester.

Mercer County Health Care Foundation is the lead donor on the project. Since it was founded in 1979, the foundation has donated more than \$1 million to advance medical care and projects in the Mercer County area.

The new space will provide more opportunities for nursing students to get hands-on training. It will include a six-bed open lab space for students to practice skill development; two private rooms; and a simulation room equipped with a high-fidelity simulator. The high-fidelity simulator creates “real-life” situations in which students provide care to the simulator in a safe environment.



AN ARTIST’S RENDERING OF THE NEW LAKE CAMPUS EXTENSION BUILDING.

RANKING

Wright State named top 3 campus for students with physical disabilities

College Magazine has named Wright State a top 3 campus for students with physical disabilities.

The online and print resource said the following about its top 10 universities that are excellent at supporting students with physical disabilities: “Some colleges go above and beyond to make the transition to college life easy for students with disabilities. These 10 schools offer accessible dorms, classrooms, and transportation, plus they get the entire school body involved by advocating for awareness and inclusion for students with physical disabilities.”

“Our ongoing commitment to and advocacy for students with disabilities has allowed us to be an aspirational role model within the higher education community,” said Thomas Webb, director of disability services.

LEADERSHIP

Cheryl Meyer named vice provost for faculty affairs



Cheryl Meyer, associate dean of the School of Professional Psychology, was named vice provost for faculty affairs, effective August 1.

Meyer joined the faculty at Wright State in 1997. Previously, she was a faculty member at Northwest Missouri State University. Meyer has a Ph.D. in social psychology from Miami University and a law degree from DePaul University.

Her areas of expertise are in forensic psychology, family violence, and politics and reproductive rights of women. Meyer has appeared on *60 Minutes* and *20/20*, and has been quoted in major national newspapers including *The New York Times*.



The Glovemaker
BY ANN WEISGARBER '76

In her third novel, Ann Weisgarber tells the story of 37-year-old Deborah Tyler, who tends orchards and makes work gloves in the inhospitable lands of the Utah Territory, during the winter of 1888. As she waits for her husband, Samuel, to return home from his travels as a wheelwright, a chain of events forces Deborah to make life-changing decisions about her Mormon faith, loyalty, and sense of community.

The characters, setting, and plot of *The Glovemaker* all stem from Weisgarber's discovery of a tiny town that existed in the 1880s, deep within the confines of what is now Capitol Reef National Park.

"I was just fascinated by these people who settled in this place that is isolated, even by today's standards," said Weisgarber.

BookBub selected *The Glovemaker* as one of the 30 Best Historical Fiction Novels to come out in 2019.

Jim Crace, author of *The Melody and Harvest*, describes *The Glovemaker* "as stark and touching as the lives described, as tense and testing as the Utah backlands where it's set, as fine as any fiction you will read this year."

The American Terrorist: Everything You Need to Know to be a Subject Matter Expert
BY TERRY OROSZI AND DAVID ELLIS, WRIGHT STATE FACULTY

A four-year study on the common characteristics of American terrorists is the focus of a new book by nationally recognized terrorism expert Terry Oroszi and behavior researcher David Ellis, both faculty members in the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

Oroszi and Ellis wrote the book as an effort to halt the recruitment of American citizens by terror organizations as well as to identify the common traits of terrorists and the social circumstances that render a person susceptible to radicalization and prime them to commit acts of terrorism.

According to the book, Ohio is ranked No. 5 in the country for terrorist residence and No. 2 for female terrorists. Two of the top 10 cities are Columbus and Cleveland.

Oroszi said Americans have a greater chance of becoming a terrorist if they grow up without a father figure, if they reside in a geographic location different from the place they were raised, and if they have feelings of anger or of being a victim.

Make It Rain: Increase Your Wealth & Financial Security
BY VERCIE LARK '86

Vercie Lark grew up in a family of seven in one of the poorest areas of Dayton, where he began his journey to become a multimillionaire. He earned an electrical engineering degree while working part time as a laborer before securing his first full-time job at Monsanto Research Corporation.

Lark began investing a portion of his earnings for retirement and, with his wife Lisa, accumulated millions of dollars in personal wealth. Like most people who amass great wealth, Lark learned through trial and error—and losses—before figuring out the simple solutions contained in his new book, *Make It Rain*.

Make It Rain offers a 10-step, how-to guide to help anyone create a better life for themselves, their family, and the people in their community. Lark hopes that *Make It Rain* will help millions of other Americans from low- and middle-income communities achieve their dreams of earning a better living, accumulating more wealth, and retiring with greater financial security.

The Widows
BY JESS MONTGOMERY

Sharon Short '82 uses the pen name Jess Montgomery for her new historical mystery, *The Widows*.

Set in Ohio in the 1920s against the backdrop of coal mining, prohibition, and the battle for women's rights, *The Widows* is a story of two women whose lives collide when the man they both love is murdered.

The Widows is inspired by the true stories of two women: Maude Collins, Ohio's first female sheriff, whose husband died in the line of duty in 1925, and Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, a prominent labor and community organizer.

The Widows was on the Goodreads list for most anticipated thrillers of 2019.

According to the *New York Journal of Books*, "This amazing, thoroughly researched historical novel by debut author Jess Montgomery shows how love, determination, and courage can overcome bitterness, deceit, and violence."

THROWBACK



THE VIETNAM WAR. SEGREGATION. POLLUTION. All were issues in the 1960s and '70s that fired the passions of students and sparked protests at Wright State and colleges around the nation.

The photos above are just a few from Wright State in Project STAND (Student Activism Now Documented), an online hub started in 2016 at Kent State University to heighten the awareness of archival collections documenting student activism around the U.S. Wright State was one of nearly 20 colleges and universities from around the country chosen to participate.

Most of the activism materials that have been included from Wright State stem from antiwar and civil rights protests during a time when the campus was just getting off the ground.

"There was less activism going on here than at some other universities," said Chris Wydman, archivist and records manager in Special Collections and Archives. "But the materials we have give a real good flavor, a cross-section of the students who were here at that time and their activities."

For example, in 1969 students took part in Vietnam Moratorium

Day—a massive national demonstration and teach-in against the war. There was also a campus protest against the Dow Chemical Co. over the military use of napalm bombs in Vietnam. And students launched a letter-writing campaign to then-Governor James Rhodes protesting the fatal shootings of demonstrating Kent State students by the Ohio National Guard.

Recent college protests across the country and on Wright State's campus have focused on racism, sexual assault, gun violence, sexual orientation, diversity, and free speech.

"There is a big push now to collect more material regarding student life," Wydman said. "I think this came from the recent rise of student activism and the need to better document these voices on college campuses."

For more information about the Special Collections and Archives, visit libraries.wright.edu/special.



RAIDERS STEP UP WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES TWO OF THEIR OWN

BY ALAN HIEBER '16

Memorial Day—May 27, 2019—is a date many in Dayton will not soon forget. Fifteen tornadoes swept through the region in a matter of hours, leaving a trail of destruction in their path.

The heart of the area is not easily broken, as the community had shown when nine members of a Klu Klux Klan group from Indiana had been met by 600 anti-Klan protesters in downtown Dayton just two days earlier.

The Wright State community was no exception in demonstrating its heart for others.

Chad McKinney '12 has been a broadcaster of Raider athletics for 13

years, including his years as a student. He has been a public address announcer for baseball and softball and once provided radio commentary for the women's basketball team's away games.

On that fateful Monday night, McKinney was at home with his two young sons while his wife, Rachel McKinney '12, was at work. It was around 10 p.m. when he started to see notifications of severe weather reaching the area.

At 11:12 p.m., an EF3 tornado touched down in the Riverside area. It was around this moment forecasters announced the 0.7-mile-wide monster with maximum wind speeds of 135–140 mph would likely be approaching the Fairfield Commons Mall in Beavercreek.

Time was precious as McKinney decided what to do. The trees were already starting to bend in the wind and the lights in the house were flickering. He rushed upstairs



to put his youngest son, only eight months old, into his car seat. McKinney roused his three-year-old son from his bed and took both children into the bathroom.

“A few seconds later, the lights went out and you could hear the glass crashing and the blinds whipping in the wind. Debris was flying underneath the door,” McKinney said. “I was holding onto the door knob and just hunkering down. The walls started shaking. It’s true that it sounds like a freight train.”

In mere minutes, the noise subsided. McKinney called for his golden retriever Nittany, who hadn’t made it to the bathroom. Nittany looked confused, but was safe. McKinney went to survey the damage.

“There was drywall and insulation all over. I went upstairs and could only go so far, because it was trashed,” McKinney said. “I didn’t make it to our kids’ room, and I saw that walls were down.”

McKinney said it wasn’t until they were all outside the house that he realized the roof was completely gone.

“The first responders were there pretty quick. It was kind of like a scene out of movie,” McKinney said. “People were

walking around and everything was just dark.”

McKinney’s wife was also fine. The family has been staying with Rachel’s parents, who live in Columbus. The McKinneys’ belongings were put into a storage unit. One notable item saved was a quilt made from work shirts worn by his father, who passed away four years ago.

On social media McKinney marked himself safe. This caught the eye of former Wright State baseball player Kyle Mossbarger ’12, who was with the Raiders from 2009 to 2012.

Mossbarger set up a GoFundMe account to support the McKinneys, which quickly took off. The total after two weeks was nearly \$11,000. A handful of former baseball players were among the donors.

“I haven’t seen these former baseball players and student-athletes in a very long time,” McKinney said. “For them to reach out to us like this has just been incredible.”

“It makes me proud to be an alumnus of this wonderful university,” McKinney said, his voice cracking with emotion.

Women’s soccer assistant coach and Beavercreek resident Travis Sobers ’03 starred for the Raiders on the men’s soccer

team from 1998 to 2001. He was the team’s rookie of the year in 1998 and is sixth all-time at Wright State in total shots taken.

Like McKinney, Sobers was at home with his family in Beavercreek the night of the tornadoes. The same EF3 tornado that caused so much damage at the McKinney home was barreling toward him.

During the 20-minute time frame the tornado was on the ground, the family had to seek shelter in the basement. Sobers said their location made it more difficult to hear that notorious train sound, but it still affected his hearing.

“In movies you hear all about the crashing noise and wind, but I didn’t really hear anything. You felt the pressure like your ears were clogged up, almost like you were in an airplane,” Sobers said. “That kind of hampered the noise, but then after that we got outside and knew.”

Countless trees were toppled during the storms, forming the bulk of the debris Sobers observed after he left the basement.

“My front two trees were laying on the house, the porch, and cars,” he said. “Then I had a huge pine tree in the back that’s probably about 100 to 120 feet long that was uprooted. The power lines were laying across my back deck.”

With a grin forming across his face, Sobers said, “It looked like something out of a war movie.”

There was no electric service immediately, so the Sobers family stayed at a friend’s home for several days. When they returned, a generator was used for about five days before the outage came to an end.

Shortly after the tornado passed, Sobers texted his players to check up on them. Unbeknownst to him, they had something special in store.

“On Tuesday afternoon they just showed up at the house, and I didn’t know that they were coming. It was kind of cool to know that the kids cared, and I understand their lives are busy,” Sobers said. “They took time out of their day to come and give a helping hand.”



CHAD MCKINNEY '12 IN FRONT OF HIS HOME IN BEAVERCREEK, JUST OVER ONE MILE FROM WRIGHT STATE'S DAYTON CAMPUS. AN EF3 TORNADO STRUCK THE HOME WITH MCKINNEY AND HIS TWO SMALL CHILDREN INSIDE ON MAY 27.

Sobers had just gotten a tree removal quote for more than \$8,000 when the athletes arrived to help haul away the debris.

“All of the sudden, I have an infantry of kids helping me clean everything up,” he said. “We got it cleared out within a couple of hours.”

Raider soccer defender Andrea Gomez gave a hand in clearing the debris in Sobers’ backyard. Her father, brothers, and members of her church joined her. She also volunteered with the clean-up process at several other houses in the same community.

Wright State goaltender Maddie Jewell was another one of those players.

“Travis always takes such good care of us, so it was our turn to return the favor and help out in any way we could. Our team is a family, and whenever someone from your family is in need, you help them with no hesitation,” Jewell said. “We’re lucky to have him on staff and are hopeful for him and his family’s ability to overcome the situation.”

Chris Bethel, assistant athletic director for facilities, also came—and brought his chainsaws.

“It was cool to see the community come together in a time like that. It’s pretty inspirational to know there is still good in the world. People are still happy to help one another,” Sobers said.

The outpouring of support by student-athletes that has occurred throughout the Miami Valley—in some cases helping out complete strangers—caught the attention of Athletic Director Bob Grant.

“The best thing I can tell you is that I’m not surprised at all. When members of our family like Chad and Travis are directly affected, I think that puts a face to the tragedy,” Grant said. “This is what our culture has bred in a real positive way.

“We sort of indoctrinate student-athletes and our administrators that we’re not just an athletic department. We’re about the whole person, giving back, and academics. Thankfully, that allows an attitude of helpfulness in times like this.”

The Wright State Alumni Association formed the Wright State Disaster Relief Fund to aid students, faculty, staff, and alumni who were affected by the tornadoes. As of June 15, 2019, the association had raised \$22,695 from 326 donors.





When opportunity knocks

A series of unexpected opportunities leads Christopher Tung '12 to a successful career at Netflix

BY KIM PATTON

When Christopher Tung graduated from high school, he knew he wanted to study film and television production in college. After growing up in Beavercreek and, later, Huber Heights, Tung explored his options close to home.

Since his father and grandfather had both worked for Miami University, Tung checked out the opportunities there. But it just wasn't the right fit.

"Ultimately, it didn't feel like the media program at Miami was what I was looking for. It was geared more toward broadcasting than motion pictures," he explained.

Tung had also heard about the motion pictures program at Wright State. While he knew the department's faculty had a reputation for excellence, he almost had second thoughts after touring the production and editing facilities in the basement of the Creative Arts Center.

"This is not sexy at all," Tung recalled thinking as he walked through the corridors of windowless rooms. In spite of the less-than-optimal environment, Tung was still sold on the program. (In 2016, the department relocated to the state-of-the-art Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures.)

One of Tung's first classes was taught by beloved motion pictures professor Chuck Derry. "He was incredibly insightful and knowledgeable," said Tung. "He really made an impact on how I viewed films."

Tung, who joked that he had watched few movies made before the 1990s prior to coming to Wright State, credits Derry with opening his eyes to the earlier days of filmmaking. He recalled writing a paper about Alfred Hitchcock and waiting with bated breath as Derry began returning the graded papers to the class.

"If you didn't get an A or B, that was the end of the road for the film program for you," Tung explained.

As Derry distributed the papers, he asked each student to leave the classroom.

"There were only 10 or 12 of us left in the room," Tung recalled. "I thought we had failed the class."

It turned out that only the remaining students had earned an A on their papers. "That was a special, reaffirming moment," said Tung, who has remained in touch with his former professor since Derry's retirement.

As Tung continued his studies, he began finding work locally as a production assistant.

"At the time, it felt like a pretty big deal," said Tung, who primarily helped out on reality TV shows as they filmed episodes in the Cincinnati and Dayton area.

Despite having two years of the motion pictures program under his belt and getting real-world experience as a production assistant, Tung said he didn't feel quite ready to audition for the third year. He eventually changed his mind and auditioned, but didn't get in.

While his professors encouraged him to continue working in the industry, leaving Wright State without a degree was not an option for Tung. He began pursuing a degree in organizational leadership while working as a production assistant and even helping his former classmates with their student films.

With just one class left, Tung was offered a job in Los Angeles on the CBS reality series *Big Brother*. While there, he took an online class to complete his degree.

Tung's opportunity to work on one of the most popular shows in reality TV history did not come overnight. The wheels were first put into motion when Tung was helping a producer clean up a kitchen during the taping of a reality show in Cincinnati.

When the producer asked Tung about his future aspirations, he replied that if he was going to continue to work in reality TV, his top three choices would be *The Amazing Race*, *Big Brother*, and *Survivor*. That producer introduced him to another producer on set who had worked on *Big Brother*. Tung gave the producer his résumé, but didn't hear anything for three to four months.

He eventually received a phone call from the production manager on *Big Brother* who asked Tung if he could come in the next day for an interview. Even though he was still living in Ohio, Tung told the production manager he was just visiting



family in the Buckeye State and would be back in Los Angeles the following week. Tung flew out to L.A. for a day, did the interview, and flew back.

Six weeks later, Tung was working on another reality show in Cleveland when the production manager finally called and asked him to join the *Big Brother* team for the summer. Tung loaded his belongings into his car and drove to L.A.

"It was a lot of networking from there on," Tung said.

He was eventually introduced to one of the heads of production at CBS and offered the opportunity to work as a production office assistant on a couple of pilots and then a series.

When the series was canceled, Tung started passing out his résumé on the CBS production

lot. An assistant accountant approached him about an opening in the accounting office, but Tung was hesitant.

"Accounting sounded so far away from any dream that I had," said Tung, who thought he was on a trajectory to be a producer. Despite his misgivings, Tung decided to have lunch with the accounting team for the TV series *The Millers*.

That lunch ended up being a pivotal moment in Tung's career when one of the accountants asked him, "If you want to be a producer, how are you supposed to do that if you don't understand how the money works?"

"That stuck with me," said Tung. "The realization that if I want to be a producer, I have to understand how the business works."

While it might not have been his dream job, Tung dove into his new role. He even came to work on the weekends to learn payroll. Tung was quickly promoted from clerk to a first assistant.

"In the accounting world, that's a pretty big jump," he explained.

When one of the finance executives at CBS was hired by Netflix, he brought Tung's supervisor over to the world's leading subscription service for TV episodes and movies. Six months later, Tung's former boss at CBS asked him to join the team at Netflix.

Tung started as a contractor at Netflix in July 2015. He was hired full time after six months. As a production finance associate in Netflix's original films division, Tung is responsible

for supporting the overall financial health of each project. He works with financial controllers and line producers to manage the project as it's being filmed.

"They build the budget, the schedule, and, as the project is under way, they give us updates on how we're doing," said Tung, who also acts as a sounding board for ideas from the team on the ground and makes sure their financial plans are sound.

During his tenure at Netflix, Tung has touched almost every project in the company's original films division, including all of the Adam Sandler movies, *War Machine* with Brad Pitt, Michael Bay's *6 Underground*, and *The Irishman*, a Martin Scorsese-directed film that will come out later this year.

In May 2019, Tung relocated to London, England, where he oversees Netflix's new division for international films. He plans to be in London for six months as Netflix's latest project gets off the ground.

Tung's time in London fulfills a longtime dream to experience life overseas. "I feel like this is my study abroad experience," he said.

Netflix's growing international profile has allowed Tung to travel and build relationships with people all over the world.

"That is definitely the most rewarding part of my job," he said. "I feel like I have grown personally by getting exposure to different cultures and different ways of thinking and doing business."

With an annual revenue of \$15.8 billion in 2018, Netflix has experienced rapid growth since Tung first joined the company. He was initially the only production finance associate. Today, there are six.

As Netflix continues to produce more original content, ranging from the critically acclaimed and award-winning series *The Crown* to a multiyear production deal with former President and First Lady Barack and Michelle Obama, Tung only sees that growth continuing.

"Things are always evolving here. You can't get too comfortable with something, because it's always going to change," said Tung. "Every day I come in and I learn something new. I never know what the day will bring, which is exciting."

Tung also takes pride in being part of a streaming service that can bring people together from around the world and allow them to engage in conversations and share ideas and opportunities.

"I do believe that streaming is the future of television and movies. It's the first time there has been one single global network where a kid in South Africa can watch a film at the exact same time as a family in Japan," he said. "As much as it feels like it's been part of our lives for years, it's still the very beginning. We'll share stories that have never been told before."

As he continues on his career trajectory at Netflix, Tung credits Wright State with helping him develop a foundational knowledge in filmmaking that enables him to communicate effectively with his colleagues.

"My Wright State education, especially in film theory, has helped me immensely to be able to talk about films," he said. "I can speak the language of films when I'm talking with other partners at Netflix such as post-production, visuals, and creatives."

Although his career may have followed a different path than he originally envisioned, Tung has no regrets about how it all played out. And while he may have taken on the role of finance executive instead of producer, he's still living his dream of making movies.

Tung advises current Wright State students and fellow alumni that, when opportunity knocks, open the door.

"How I got to Netflix was not necessarily planned. It was always just me saying yes to new opportunities and seeing where they took me," he explained. "Sometimes when you come out of college you want to have this perfect plan. For me, it all kind of happened in a different way, but in a better way than I could have ever imagined."

TUNG ADMIRES THE VIEW OF DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES FROM THE NETFLIX OFFICES ON SUNSET BOULEVARD IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Dorothy Doria '79 always had a passion for helping others. It inspired her to come to Wright State University to earn her degree in social work.

To honor his wife's memory and her desire to make a difference, Ed Doria '78, has set up a charitable gift annuity to create an endowed scholarship in her name.

Dorothy's legacy will now live on forever through future generations of Wright State social work students.

To learn how you could honor the memory of a loved one and help Wright State students, contact:

Office of Planned Giving
937-775-3694 | plannedgiving@wright.edu
wright.edu/plannedgiving



BE DAZZLED!

Sapphire 2019 JUBILEE

The Wright State African American Alumni Society invites you to join us for the inaugural Sapphire Jubilee. We are honoring our past and celebrating our future while enjoying a night of festive live music, dancing, African-influenced dishes, and a silent auction. Thank you for supporting the success of African American students at Wright State. Go to wrightstatealumni.com for tickets.

WSU Nutter Center
Berry Room

Saturday, September 21, 2019

6:00 p.m.
Black tie optional

Tickets to the
SAPPHIRE JUBILEE:
\$75 per person
(includes 2 drink tickets)

For more information
and tickets:
wrightstatealumni.com

FOREIGN POLICY

WRIGHT STATE FOLLOWS NATIONAL TREND OF SURGING INTEREST IN EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAMS, OFFERING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

BY JIM HANNAH



FROM LEFT: ABBIE WEST '18, LIZZY CARNAHAN, LINDSEY STRICKLAND '18, ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDENT ROSE GUY, PH.D., MAGGIE HOLE '19, BECCA ENDICOTT, AND RENN CRAVER IN FRONT OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY IN 2018.

They follow Syrian refugees on Instagram and have Facebook friends in Finland, China, and Mozambique. So it's little wonder that college students who have seen foreign countries through social media are flocking to education abroad programs for a deeper experience.

"It's an exciting time for education abroad. It really is," said William Holmes, associate vice provost for international affairs. "The growth here at Wright State is unlike anything I have seen at my previous schools. It's doubled in the last five years."

Wright State is part of a national trend. The number of American students studying abroad continues to steadily increase, growing by 2.3 percent in the 2016–17 academic year compared to the previous year. A total of 332,727 students studied abroad for credit.

That's according to the annual Open Doors report by the Institute of International Education. The institute estimates that 10.9 percent of all undergraduate students study abroad at some point in their undergraduate careers.

More than 300 Wright State students currently participate in education abroad, double the number five years ago. Holmes said the increased numbers at Wright State are primarily due to faculty-led programs.

"We've seen a lot of growth just because

more faculty are getting engaged," he said. "It's one thing to teach Russian literature in a classroom and it's another thing to teach Russian literature in St. Petersburg. It brings it home."

About half of Wright State education abroad students go on the faculty-led ambassador programs, which typically last a few weeks. The other half are students who directly enroll at an overseas university for an exchange or enroll in an affiliate-run study program for a semester.

Nationally, the five most popular countries students choose for study abroad are all in Europe—the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France, and Germany. Wright State education abroad experiences include opportunities in approximately 60 countries that include programs in Italy, France, China, England, Poland, and even the Amazon.

A new experiential education abroad program in Nepal launched in May for students studying kinesiology and health, making it a unique opportunity for students in this academic area.

Wright State has also begun giving out seed grants to help develop new education abroad programs. The university is currently trying to get programs started in Finland, Hungary, Belize, and Kenya because of student demand.

The university is also seeking out new department-to-department relationships and integrating education abroad programs with the curriculum so that students who go abroad can still graduate on time and receive financial aid.

"The education piece of international education is when we are actually teaching courses to people and we're teaching those courses abroad," said Holmes. "Education abroad is a key component to a modern education."

Wright State's University Center for International Education coordinates exchange and education abroad opportunities and helps internationalize curriculum. Joy Wanderi, associate director, says studying abroad is a great

"It's an exciting time for education abroad. It really is. The growth here at Wright State is unlike anything I have seen at my previous schools. It's doubled in the last five years."

WILLIAM HOLMES
ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

way for students to learn more about the world and different cultures.

"A lot of students come here and they're timid, but when they study abroad they become more confident," she said. "Studying abroad is a student success initiative."

Wright State has also been focusing on education abroad trips for students with disabilities.

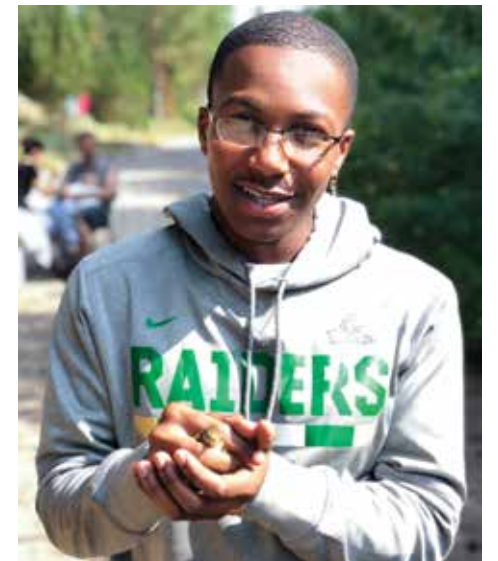
"I think you are going to see more students with disabilities able to go abroad as many of the prime locations are becoming more accessible," said Holmes. "It's going to make it easier for us to create programs for students with disabilities to participate."

Earlier this year, the U.S. State Department named Wright State among institutions showing the greatest growth in overseas study by students with disabilities.

Thomas Webb, director of the Office of Disability Services, said that for the majority of students with disabilities, the thought of participating in an education abroad opportunity is often overwhelming and cost prohibitive given some of the additional support that may be needed.

In 2018, Webb helped lead a 10-day education abroad trip to England for students interested in rehabilitation services and disability studies.

The students demonstrated their community accessibility evaluation skills by meticulously planning their itinerary for a day in London by checking with historical sites, restaurants, and other stops to make sure they were fully wheelchair accessible. They learned that the Tower of London was only 20 percent accessible, so



JOSHUA HATCH '18 WAS ONE OF SEVERAL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS WHO TRAVELED TO POLAND IN 2018 TO STUDY THE BEHAVIOR OF ANIMALS IN THE WILD AND AT A ZOO.

they switched gears and planned a stop at Parliament instead.

Jacob Nolin '15 went to China on an education abroad trip in 2013 and was able to walk along the Great Wall of China.

"It was a new experience that showed me how an entire other country operates and how their people live," said Nolin. "It also showed me that sometimes getting out of your comfort zone is the best thing to do. It made me more open-minded to trying new things."

Nolin, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in English in 2015, so enjoyed the trip that he returned to China in 2016, working in Shenzhen as an international English teacher for 15 months. Today, he is a tutor with AmeriCorps, which engages volunteers in public service with

“It was a new experience that showed me how an entire other country operates and how their people live. It also showed me that sometimes getting out of your comfort zone is the best thing to do. It made me more open-minded to trying new things.”

JACOB NOLIN '15
ON HIS WRIGHT STATE EDUCATION ABROAD TRIP TO CHINA IN 2013



the support of the federal government, foundations, and corporations.

Kenny Burr '14 went on a study abroad trip to London in 2014.

“Some of my favorite experiences were trying out curry and Indian food, seeing all of the West End plays and musicals as part of the theater program class I took, as well as seeing all the museums and going to a rugby game,” he said.

Burr, who graduated from Wright State in 2014 with a degree in political science, currently serves on a variety of advisory boards advocating for people with disabilities. He is also the second vice chair of the New York State Disabilities Issues Caucus as well as the chair of The Disability Caucus of the Westchester Young

Democrats in New York State.

“The study abroad trip made me want to fight even harder to promote change for people with disabilities, especially when it comes to accessible transportation options and making the world more accessible in general,” Burr said.

Nationally, the profile of education abroad students continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse. About 29.2 percent of students who studied abroad in 2016–17 were non-white compared to 18.1 percent a decade earlier.

In 2018, Wright State psychology students traveled to Poland to study the behavior of animals in the wild and at a zoo. They spent three weeks studying the migration patterns of birds, the behaviors

of apes, and the reactions of seals to different stimuli.

The trip presented a life-changing opportunity for psychology majors Joshua Hatch '18 and Jeremy Greene, the first African American male students to participate in the trip.

“Poland is almost all white,” said Martin Gooden, lecturer of psychology and faculty in residence with the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center. “For Josh and Jeremy, this experience provided a unique opportunity for real cultural exchange not just for them, but also for their Polish hosts.”

Hatch said the trip was an eye-opening experience for him and he was very thankful to go. As someone who grew up in poverty and in a single-parent home, he recognized that the opportunity to study abroad was rare for many.

“There are people who never even get to travel outside their city or state, let alone the country. That was amazing to me,” he said. “If I could enable more people to have the opportunity, I would.”

Holmes said studying abroad can be a life-changing experience, an opportunity to learn about oneself as well as become better prepared for the job market. Data suggest that college graduates who study abroad earn about \$1 million more in their careers than those who don't.

“A recent survey found about 40 percent of companies missed business opportunities because they lacked internationally competent staff,” said Holmes. “With 95 percent of the world's



TOP: KENNY BURR '14 UNDER THE EIFFEL TOWER ON HIS STUDY ABROAD TRIP TO PARIS IN 2014. RIGHT: STUDENT JEREMY GREENE WAS AMONG THE PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS WHO TRAVELED TO POLAND IN 2018 TO STUDY THE BEHAVIOR OF ANIMALS.



consumers outside the U.S., this makes education abroad an important educational imperative for Wright State.”

Emma Peterson '19 is an example of someone who has taken full advantage of the university's education abroad opportunities.

The international studies and Spanish major, who graduated this spring, studied abroad in Costa Rica, Chile, France, and China. Most recently, she began a Fulbright fellowship in Taiwan as an English teaching assistant.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide. It operates in more than 140 countries.

Students are selected based on their academic record, language preparation, and the quality of their proposed community engagement project in their host country. Fulbright scholars meet, work, live with, and learn from the people of the host country, sharing daily

experiences. Through engagement in the community, the students interact with their hosts on a one-to-one basis to promote mutual understanding.

During her study abroad stint in China, Peterson was based at a university in Chengdu. The city of 10 million is one of the most important economic, financial, commercial, cultural, transportation, and communication centers in western China. It is also home to the famous Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, a conservation center where visitors can view endangered giant pandas in a natural habitat.

“I loved Chengdu because it had a lot of traditional Chinese culture,” said Peterson. “Teahouses are very popular. Elderly people would go to the teahouses and just sit and drink tea all afternoon while playing mahjong. And the parks are lively. Parkgoers dance, juggle, and practice the martial art of tai chi.”

She said the Chinese people were very welcoming and even helped her work on her Mandarin Chinese. While she was there, she and another American student facilitated a cultural exchange with Chinese

middle school students and learned a bit about each other's cultures.

“They taught [us] how to do traditional Chinese paper cutting, and we taught them how to make mashed potatoes,” she said. “It was a lot of fun.”

Holmes said studying abroad is a “growing thing,” thanks in part to social media.

“You have students who are Facebook friends with people all around the world,” said Holmes. “They are following each other moment to moment to moment. There is greater connection now than there ever was before. So I think there is an interest in getting engaged somehow with the world.”

For more information on education abroad opportunities, visit wright.edu/ucie.



GINA OSWALD, PH.D., PROFESSOR AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF REHABILITATION SERVICES, AND THOMAS WEBB, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES, AT A PARK IN CAMBRIDGE IN 2018.



A CITY OF

Gems

**HUNDREDS OF WRIGHT STATE
ALUMNI ARE MAKING A
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE
RESURGENCE OF DOWNTOWN
DAYTON. HERE IS JUST
A SMALL CROSS SECTION OF
DAYTON'S CHANGE-MAKERS.**

BY ANDREW CALL, NICOLE CRAW, JIM HANNAH, AND BOB MIHALEK



YEVETTA HAWLEY '09

**DIRECTOR OF NURSING
PUBLIC HEALTH–DAYTON & MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

It's the best-kept secret in the city. That's the word from Yevetta Hawley '09, director of nursing for Public Health–Dayton & Montgomery County. "There are so many services—60-plus services and programs that are under our umbrella," she said. "It's meant to be the safety net that is there to help the community when needed. Public Health workers are silent stewards. They are so committed to what they do." Hawley joined Public Health in 2013 after a 38-year career with Premier Health. As director of nursing, she oversees nurses who work in the immunization, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted disease clinics, as well as the clinics for refugees and children with medical disabilities. Hawley and Public Health work to improve the health and safety of downtown Dayton by educating residents about disease, providing free health testing, and monitoring environmental and climate conditions. She is also part of the Community Overdose Action Team and interacts regularly with downtown residents and workers. She has participated in downtown walks and helped organize Not a Single Pound, a weight-loss initiative over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for employees of downtown businesses. "We try to take the pulse of downtown," she said.



JEFF HOAGLAND '00

**PRESIDENT AND CEO
DAYTON DEVELOPMENT COALITION**

As president and CEO of the Dayton Development Coalition (DDC), Jeff Hoagland '00 is one of the driving forces in the economic revival of downtown Dayton, something he's incredibly committed to. The DDC coordinates the interests of private industry, developers, the state, the city, and the 12 counties surrounding Dayton. Although the DDC also helps encourage projects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, downtown Dayton has become a larger part of its focus in recent years. "I remember going through Wright State's Master of Public Administration program when it was [called] urban administration and hearing [professor] Jack Dustin talk about the importance of the central city," Hoagland said. "I have seen what he told us play out 100 percent accurately. Around 2010, we started coming up with strategies to build a greater downtown. And, once downtown started getting a few wins, you could see how success breeds success." Working with JobsOhio, the DDC helped bring Taylor Communications, CareSource, and General Electric downtown—and more than 2,000 jobs. "The new companies get the headlines, but 75 to 80 percent of our region's growth has come from existing companies, so our focus will be on how we can help them continue to grow," Hoagland said.

ALEX WILKER '16

**MANAGER, CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS
DAYTON DRAGONS PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TEAM**

Since 2000, the Dayton Dragons Professional Baseball Team has sold out every home game at Fifth Third Field, an all-time record for U.S. pro sports. *Forbes* magazine in 2016 ranked the franchise's overall value No. 3 in all of minor league baseball. The Cincinnati Reds minor league affiliate has grown right along with downtown, and no one could be happier about it than Alex Wilker '16, manager of corporate partnerships for the team. "I have witnessed a hotel, multiple apartment complexes, restaurants, and new business buildings being developed around Fifth Third Field," Wilker said. "Just walking into work each day, I have had the unique experience of observing these new buildings from the groundbreaking stage to the official opening." Wilker, who interned with the team during his senior year, is now the manager for more than 10 corporate partners. He also manages the Dragons' social media accounts and helps coordinate educational and community outreach programs. "One career goal I have always had is to be part of something bigger than myself, and I have fulfilled it by being part of the Dragons organization," Wilker said.



DAVE DICKERSON '84

**PRESIDENT
DAYTON CONSTRUCTION SALES AND DEVELOPMENT
MILLER-VALENTINE GROUP**

As market president and partner of the Miller-Valentine Group, a nationally recognized development and construction company, Dave Dickerson '84 has had a big hand in molding downtown Dayton and the surrounding areas into what you see today. "We have been excited to be part of the renaissance that's occurring downtown. I have worked downtown my whole career and love the optimism and energy," said Dickerson. With more than 25 years in real estate, Dickerson has worked with several Fortune 500 clients, organizations, and corporations. In the past few years, Miller-Valentine has taken on projects that have shaped the downtown landscape, including the renovation of Wheelhouse Lofts, a 150-year-old historic building located near the Oregon District, and renovation of the old Post Office building. Current projects the group has under way include restoration of the iconic Dayton Motor Car Company building and converting the historic Barclay Building into a 10-story boutique hotel. "Miller-Valentine is thrilled to be part of this excitement and has committed to be part of this future growth," he said. The group and Dickerson himself are also active in philanthropy, having a hand in fundraising for the new outdoor music venue, Levitt Pavilion.





RICHARD KAISER '08

FOUNDER
WILDERNESS AGENCY

If you don't know Richard Kaiser '08, you've probably never been to downtown Dayton. Kaiser, founder of creative firm Wilderness Agency, came to a crossroads in 2018 when his business needed to relocate. But Kaiser knew exactly where to go. "We felt a strong pull to be in the urban core of Dayton," he said. "We thought it would be a path to both celebrate our uniqueness and tap into the strong vitality of this urban market." But perhaps the most impressive thing is the space itself—a converted 100-year-old factory, where their current main office space was formerly a dark garage. Kaiser and his team put more than 400 hours into renovating that space, from sandblasting the walls to expose the original brick to installing subflooring. They've crafted it into an urban oasis that's modern and open, where traditional desk spaces are combined with soft seating and coffee tables curated to support however their employees work best. "One of the main reasons we moved downtown was to be in the middle of this very collaborative side of Dayton where we're seeing a lot of creativity," he said. "We really wanted to use that as fuel to our fire."



JEFFREY MIMS '75

CITY COMMISSIONER
CITY OF DAYTON

Serving his second term on Dayton City Commission, alumnus Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr. '75, has been a mover and shaker when it comes to helping increase the vitality of downtown Dayton. Elected in 2013, he decided to run to serve his community. He and other commissioners have helped entice investors to construct housing and fill building vacancies, most recently to reopen the historic Dayton Arcade. The building is expected to become home to the Arcade Innovation Hub, shops, restaurants, and other businesses. He and the city have also paved the way for the new outdoor music venue Levitt Pavilion, which provides 50 free concerts each summer. Mims said it's one of his favorite things about downtown. "You cannot imagine the joy of providing high-quality entertainment in downtown Dayton for free," he said. "People are really enjoying the Levitt." Mims, an Air Force veteran who served in the Vietnam War, earned a master's degree in education from Wright State in 1975. "It was a great experience," Mims said. "Being an adult and having worked and been experienced in life made me see a higher value for education." Mims worked in Dayton Public Schools for 35 years and served as president of the Dayton Board of Education.



ERIC FELTNER '11

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
DAYTON EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY—DECA MIDDLE

As the middle school assistant principal at the Dayton Early College Academy (DECA), Eric Feltner '11 helps lead the downtown location of a network of three charter school campuses. Founded in 2003, DECA was Dayton's first early college high school. DECA's graduation requirements include 100 hours of community service and three college courses. "We exist because we are trying to get more kids from the city of Dayton to college and help them succeed there," Feltner said. Educational options like DECA have helped make Dayton even more attractive to incoming businesses and residents—all residents. "One of the myths we have actively worked to dispel is that we hand-select students," Feltner said. "Not true. It is first-come, first-served to fill any open spots we have." DECA earned the Ohio School Innovation Award in 2017 and has earned a Best High School bronze medal from *U.S. News & World Report* six times. The school is featured on the U.S. Department of Education's Doing What Works website, and its model was recently replicated by Indianapolis. "The classes I took at Wright State included learning how leadership style impacts how you work with people," Feltner said. "It's not a one-size-fits-all approach at DECA, which I think people appreciate."



SANDY GUDORF '85

PRESIDENT
DOWNTOWN DAYTON PARTNERSHIP

Ten years ago, Sandy Gudorf '85 wanted to see change. After the economic downturn of the late 2000s, downtown Dayton was hit hard. Gudorf and her team at the Downtown Dayton Partnership—where she has worked for more than 25 years—put together a group of leaders to build a plan to drive progress in downtown Dayton. The Greater Downtown Plan was born. Implemented in May 2010, it quickly laid the roadmap for how the community would rally together to strengthen downtown. "We didn't call in a lot of out-of-town consultants," said Gudorf. "We created a true public/private partnership, understanding that a healthy and vibrant downtown is not only important to the city of Dayton, but the entire region." Gudorf said there were several key factors that drove the plan initially, but two of the most vital were keeping young talent from area universities like Wright State living and working downtown, and the rise in entrepreneurship and small business, especially the influx of independently owned restaurants and breweries. "I've seen the ups and downs of downtown," Gudorf said. "To see all this investment now, from large companies and investors to small mom-and-pop businesses who've decided this is where they want to fulfill their dream...it's just been incredible."



JUDY DODGE '85
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

After a nearly 35-year career in politics, Judy Dodge '85 has found her niche. First elected to the Montgomery County Commission in 2006, her biggest passion project came after an event she attended for elected officials in 2010. She was given a benefits card and asked to buy food for a family for one week using the limited funds. "I was absolutely stunned that I couldn't do it," Dodge said. "I thought to myself, 'How do people do this?' So I started getting more involved in food insecurity." She formed a committee on food access and created the Market at Wright Stop Plaza, a location within the bus hub downtown where fresh fruits and vegetables are available for the bus riders throughout the week. In a partnership with local farmers, locally sourced produce is available to the public at market rate. Dodge has also been a strong supporter of other food-related initiatives, like the Gem City Market, the first full-service grocery store planned to open in the Salem Avenue corridor. "It makes me incredibly happy that we've been able to do positive things in Dayton," she said. "I will continue to educate, advocate, and build new partnerships to create a community that is free of food inequity."



CHRIS KERSHNER '00
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Growth in downtown Dayton is one thing, but another is developing the workforce to sustain it. That's where Wright State comes in, says Chris Kershner '00, executive vice president for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. "Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce is the No. 1 issue for the business community," Kershner said. "We have higher education pathways here that are producing the people our workforce needs." The chamber represents more than 2,400 businesses in the 10-county region. Kershner's responsibilities include lobbying for the chamber on public policy, government affairs, and economic development initiatives. "Downtown Dayton is experiencing a renaissance right now," Kershner said. "The pendulum is definitely on the upswing." Among the projects Kershner points to as evidence are the \$30 million in planned renovations to a staple of downtown, the Kettering Tower; the more than \$90 million planned redevelopment of the Dayton Arcade; the \$100 million revitalization of the Fire Blocks District; and the opening of the RiverScape RiverRun kayak park. "To see the private involvement shows economic confidence," Kershner said.



NAN WHALEY '09
MAYOR
CITY OF DAYTON

For Nan Whaley '09, it's an exciting time to be mayor of Dayton. Over the last decade, downtown Dayton has seen a resurgence of development, with more than \$1 billion invested in dozens of projects, including commercial, entertainment and residential uses. "It's great to be a steward during this time and continue to build," said Whaley, who graduated in 2009 with a master's degree in public administration. Whaley was elected to the Dayton City Commission in 2005 and successfully ran for mayor in 2013. She is now in her second term. A major goal for Whaley, other community leaders, and Dayton residents was reached in the spring of 2019 when developers completed financing for a \$90 million overhaul of the historic Dayton Arcade. The project includes \$10 million from the city, Dayton's largest economic investment since the construction of the Schuster Center in the early 2000s, the *Dayton Daily News* reported. Longtime Daytonians have fond memories of the Arcade and its stunning rotunda, while those who are new to the area or too young to remember it are excited about its potential. "The Arcade is the most emotional building in the city of Dayton," Whaley said. The Arcade, which closed in 1991, ►



SHAUN HAMILTON '13
SYSTEM DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY BENEFITS
PREMIER HEALTH

Courthouse Square is his favorite part of downtown Dayton. "There is a vibrant energy there," said Shaun Hamilton '13, Premier Health's system director for community benefits. "During the work week, you can go to the square and there are food trucks and entertainment on stage. This is what it feels like to be in a happening city. It gives you a sense of normalcy and decency that people can sit and be together." In his role with Premier Health, which operates a network of hospitals and health centers, Hamilton works closely with members of the downtown Dayton community, overseeing Premier Health's community benefits and its goal of increasing physical activity to stave off chronic disease. "Where you live, work, and play has more to do with your health than what your hospital or doctor will do," Hamilton said. Premier has played no small part in the growing vibrancy of downtown. When Premier moved its corporate headquarters to North Main Street, it brought more than 1,000 employees. The company also helps sponsor Link, Dayton's bike-share program. And it is supporting the Gem City Market, a grocery co-op in west Dayton near downtown that is in the works. Hamilton believes the market will encourage more people to move downtown.

DOWNTOWN DAYTON GROWTH

**PUBLIC & PRIVATE
SECTOR INVESTMENTS
IN DOWNTOWN PROJECTS SINCE 2010**

\$1.092 BILLION OF COMPLETED PROJECTS
\$437.7 MILLION OF PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL OCCUPANCY

75.5% FIRST FLOOR OCCUPANCY ACROSS DOWNTOWN
32 NEW BUSINESSES OPENED OR COMMITTED TO DOWNTOWN IN 2018



97.5%
HAS THE REGION'S HIGHEST APARTMENT OCCUPANCY RATE

DOWNTOWN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

336 HOUSING UNITS IN THE PIPELINE
220 OF THOSE ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SOURCE: DOWNTOWN DAYTON PARTNERSHIP

will offer new housing, offices, restaurants, retail shops, and space for public events. The complex's anchor will be the Arcade Innovation Hub, which will provide space for entrepreneurship and education programs. "For us to really invest around entrepreneurship and to make sure we're trying to support those with ideas is the key for the future of this economy," Whaley said. "I think it's a great juxtaposition of an old building with a lot of history that will bring new life and rebirth into Dayton's economy." Other projects that have increased the development of downtown include the new downtown Dayton Metro Library; Levitt Pavilion, which hosts free concerts in the heart of downtown; the Water Street District, which features commercial space, housing, and a hotel near RiverScape and FifthThird Field; and numerous residential developments. She credits the use of different tools like tax credits and state and federal grants, along with renewed interest in urban living and shopping locally, especially by young people, for downtown's resurgence. "They want local experiences that are unique, and downtown offers that," she said. "I think all of these trends bode well for us in the core—and that's a really new feeling—for the first time in 50 years." That's one reason Whaley says downtown is the hottest housing market in the region, with close to 98 percent current rental occupancy. "If we want to attract and retain the talent of our young people, we have to have a strong urban core, not just for Dayton but for the entire region," Whaley said. The diversity found in downtown Dayton is not only something the community values but also helps attract people to the city. "We know that young people and folks who have new ideas value that diversity of thought because it helps new ideas come out," she said.

RESOURCES

Public Health–Dayton & Montgomery County | phdmc.org
Dayton Development Coalition | daytonregion.com
Dayton Dragons | milb.com/dayton
Miller-Valentine Group | mvg.com
Wilderness Agency | wildernessagency.com
City of Dayton | daytonohio.gov
DECA Schools | deca.org
Downtown Dayton Partnership | downtowndayton.org
Montgomery County | mcohoio.org
Premier Health | premierhealth.com
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce | daytonchamber.org

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A mind for government

BY MICAH KARR '19

ADRIAN WILLIAMS '20 HAS EMBARKED on his senior year at Wright State, but he has already accomplished more than most students his age and beyond.

For starters, he has traveled the world looking to fill his passion. Williams spent the summer of 2018 in Switzerland representing North America at the U.N.'s World Health Organization. While there, he worked to lobby for increasing access to medical technology, such as hearing aids.

"[I] got to meet the president of the World Health Organization and the director-general," Williams said. "It was an awesome experience."

It was this drive for change that inspired him to run for office with the Student Government Association. This year, Williams was re-elected vice president and is also executive director of the Ohio Student Government Association. He represents the public institutions in Ohio and provides a student perspective for legislation.

"My favorite thing about Wright State is just the amount of people who care," he said. "There are so many faculty, staff, and students who are all just committed to doing good."

Williams was recently named a Newman Civic Fellow, which recognizes students for being agents of change and civically engaged. He received the honor due to his record of working with minority groups.

"When I found out I was the civic fellow, I was just so excited to finally get a platform to work on issues that I've been passionate about all my life," he said.

Williams said he chose Wright State because of the extensive research opportunities and the neuroscience program, but also because he could truly make a difference.

"I saw a chance to be an agent of change and get involved immediately," he said. "I can get right in and start making a difference."

When Williams graduates with his bachelor's in neuroscience, he wants to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. joint degree, with a Ph.D. in neuroscience. He enjoys the prospect of blending the clinical experience with the unknowns of traditional laboratory research, as well as his end goal of working in the intersection of public policy, health care, and government. His dream job is to be the U.S. secretary of health and human services.

"Wright State helped me see the connection between politics and medicine/health care more clearly and it allowed me to finally put together the many diverse interests I have into a definitive career plan," he said.

A full-body portrait of Adrian Williams '20, a young Black man with a short beard, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, black pants, and white sneakers. He is standing with his hands in his pockets against a background of green, leafy plants.

Adrian Williams '20

We know Wright State University means a lot to you. It's the years you spent making lifelong friends, starting college traditions, and setting the stage for where you are now. We're proud that our alumni are the strongest legacy of Wright State.

You can help high school students who were just like you before you came to Wright State. Do you know a high school student looking at universities? Tell them they're invited to the Wright State Raider Open House.

At this event, they can:



Tour campus and see our interactive classrooms, underground tunnels, and some of the largest college dorms in the state.



Explore 150 academic programs and learn about campus life.



Get help with their application and financial aid, learn about transferring credit, meet with faculty in programs they are interested in, and get their questions answered.



WRIGHT STATE RAIDER OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 2
Wright State
Student Union

Learn more and register
wright.edu/visit

CAN'T MAKE IT? OUR SPRING OPEN HOUSE WILL BE MARCH 7, 2020.

New festival to take flight

At Homecoming this fall, Wright State to launch inaugural Festival of Flight

BY BOB MIHALEK

Wright State has partnered with some of the Miami Valley’s leading aviation and community organizations to organize a new local festival dedicated to flight.

The Festival of Flight will celebrate aviation and highlight the importance of the Miami Valley’s aviation heritage on the grounds of the Wright State University Nutter Center on Saturday, October 5. The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., culminating with a Wright State men’s soccer game.

The free festival will appeal to families from around the Miami Valley and aviation enthusiasts across the country. The event is expected to attract an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 people. Alumni, friends, and families can return to Wright State to catch up with classmates and enjoy a beautiful fall day on campus.

Attendees will experience aviation-related educational experiences; flight-themed food and beverages, including beer and wine flights; sports; and entertainment, including performances by local bands, a dedicated area with activities for children, and a haunted trail sponsored by Foy’s Halloween and Variety Store in Fairborn.

The Festival of Flight will incorporate the university’s annual Wright Brothers Day celebration, which marks the anniversary of Wilbur Wright’s 39-minute flight on Huffman Prairie on October 5, 1905. The flight demonstrated that the Wright brothers had advanced their design to the point of a practical airplane. As part of the Wright Brothers Day celebration, the festival will showcase innovations from Wright State researchers and the local community.

“When Uncles Orv and Will first ‘imagined’ the role their flying

machines would play in the world, they predicted their aeroplanes would be used for sport and pleasure . . . and that ‘flight’ would link neighbors and strangers,” said Amanda Wright Lane, great grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright. “Over 100 years later, the organizers of Wright State’s inaugural Festival of Flight are designing an event that will do just that—join all members of our community through sport and entertainment, while celebrating a world-transforming technology born only a few miles away!”

The festival is sponsored by the City of Fairborn, Wright State University, and the Wright State Alumni Association in partnership with the Dayton Regional STEM School, the Miami Valley Restaurant Association, the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, and the National Aviation Hall of Fame with participation by the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

“We are the birthplace of aviation; Wright State is named in honor of the Wright brothers; Huffman Prairie is in the heart of Fairborn,” said Greg Scharer, executive director of alumni relations at Wright State. “The Festival of Flight is a celebration of something our community takes pride in and will help make even more members of the public aware of the importance of aviation to our community.”

The festival will introduce attendees to many of the hidden gems of aviation-related resources in the Miami Valley.

“It’s no secret that the Dayton community takes great pride in our rich aviation legacy. What this festival will provide is the ability to engage young and old alike in the heritage of aviation as well as STEM aspects of flight,” said Amy Spowart, executive director of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. “Through exhibits,



interactives, sports, and the arts, our festival will have something for every member of the family.”

Much of the festival will focus on providing educational experiences for attendees, especially children.

The festival will feature flight simulators, including a Wright “B” Flyer, a World War II bomber, modern planes, and drones. Attendees will also be able to view up close a model of a Wright “B” Flyer.

Demonstrations will help educate attendees about the history and future of aviation. Sinclair College’s unmanned aerial system training center will put on drone demonstrations. Other educational experiences will be provided by the Dayton Regional STEM School, Wright State’s Special Collections and Archives, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum, and the International Women’s Air and Space Museum.

The Dayton Regional STEM School will create an event passport to encourage students to visit age-appropriate educational activities in exchange for extra credit in their home school districts.

Music fans can dance to live performances by bands on the City of Fairborn stage from noon to 8 p.m.

Food and beverages will have flight themes to add to the day’s fun. The festival will offer popular food trucks and local restaurants as well as beer and wine in the dining tent.

A World War II bomber and World War I biplanes will fly over the festival grounds.

Sports fans will have plenty to cheer about as well. The USA Patriots will play exhibition softball games against an all-star team of local military personnel and first responders and the Dayton Legends Softball Club all-stars. Formerly known as the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, the USA Patriots are composed of veterans who have lost limbs in combat or from non-combat injuries. Team Fastrax Professional Skydiving Team will parachute in the U.S. flag during the game’s opening ceremony.

Also planned is a vintage baseball game between the Cincinnati 1869 Red Stockings and Dayton’s Eastwood Iron Horses. Wright State’s NCAA Division I volleyball and men’s soccer teams, along with the club football team, will play during the festival. Heater and Gem, the Dayton Dragons mascots, and Rowdy Raider will be in attendance to entertain the kids.

Wright State students will participate in a parade of golf carts they will decorate with flight themes.

Each year, the Festival of Flight will take place during the first weekend in October.

For more information, visit FestivalOfFlight.org.

CELEBRATING OUR
HISTORY OF FLIGHT

FESTIVAL OF
FLIGHT

OCTOBER 5

WRIGHT STATE NUTTER CENTER

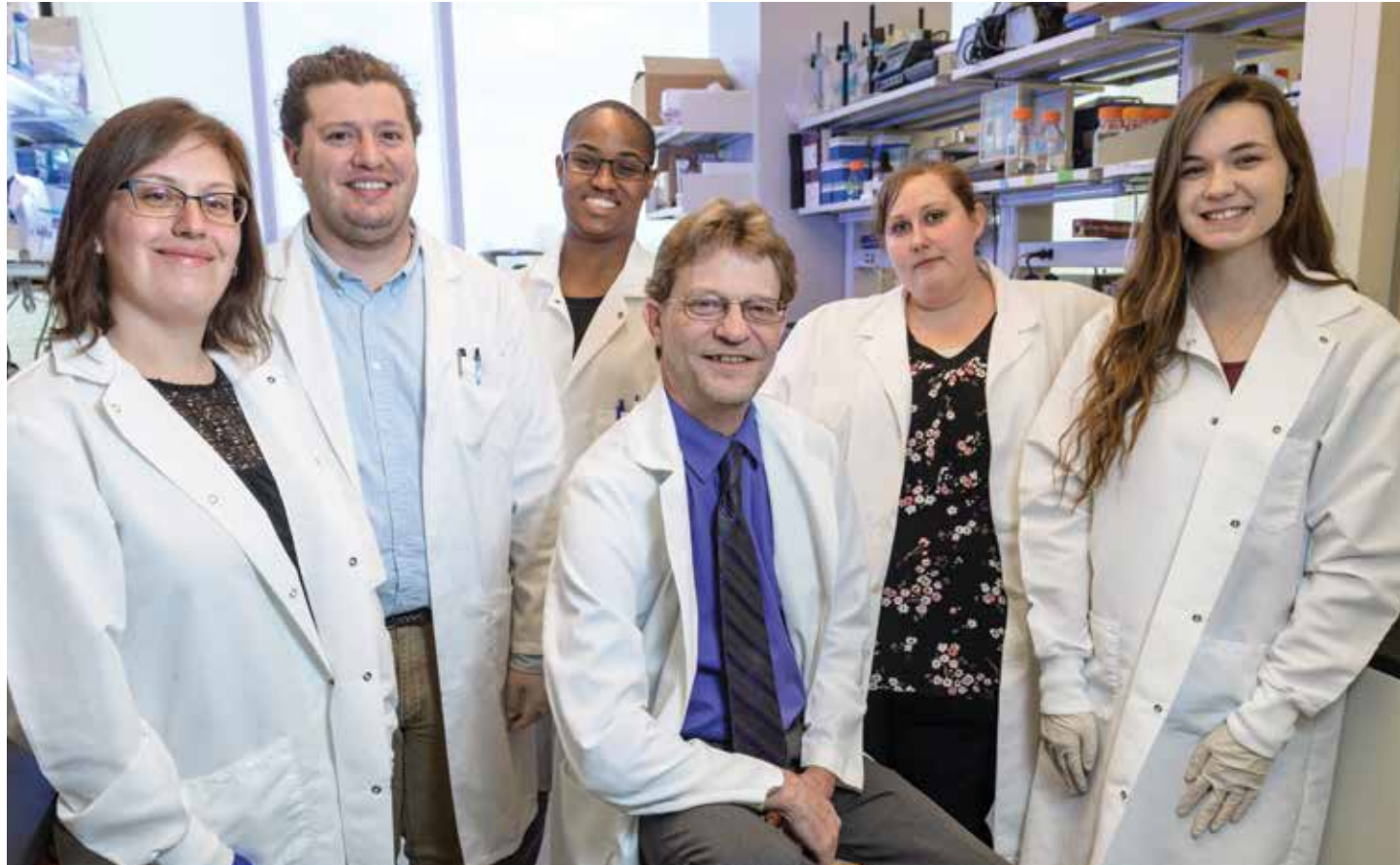
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11:00 A.M. USA PATRIOTS SOFTBALL GAME
12:15 P.M. USA PATRIOTS
“SALUTE TO WOMEN VETERANS”
12:30 P.M. LIVE MUSIC BEGINS
1:00 P.M. VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME
WRIGHT STATE CLUB FOOTBALL
VS. OHIO STATE
4:00 P.M. WORLD WAR II BOMBER FLYOVER
6:00 P.M. GOLF CART PARADE
7:00 P.M. FOY’S HAUNTED TRAIL OPENS
WRIGHT STATE MEN’S SOCCER
VS. OAKLAND

FESTIVALOFFLIGHT.ORG



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MELISSA KAUFMAN, CHRIS WAKER, CHANEL KEONI, SARAH WILLIAMS, AND DANIELLE SPANBAUER WITH THOMAS L. BROWN, PH.D. (CENTER).

Baby steps

Pregnancy-related disorders target of pioneering research by Wright State's Thomas L. Brown, Ph.D.

BY JIM HANNAH

It was a nightmare. Five months into her pregnancy, Uohna June Thiessen's blood pressure skyrocketed and she was hospitalized. For Thiessen, much of what took place there is a blur.

Doctors induced delivery but, sadly, she lost the baby. Even after that tragic event, her blood pressure remained high over the next few days. Thiessen began to have difficulty breathing and she suffered chest pains, the result of a swollen heart due to the high blood pressure.

Thiessen had developed preeclampsia, a pregnancy complication responsible for more than 76,000 maternal and 500,000 infant deaths worldwide each year.

"I did eventually get discharged from the hospital, but things didn't get better for a long time," she said. "I could not see a baby on TV or in the streets, as I would cry uncontrollably."

When Thiessen was working toward her Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, she shared her story with Thomas L. Brown, Ph.D., vice chair for research in Wright State's Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology.

"Clearly this is something that has left a permanent mark. How could it not?" said Brown.

Brown has spent the past 15 years studying preeclampsia, which can result from abnormal placental development and lead to a rapid and life-threatening rise

in the mother's blood pressure. It can also cause kidney damage and impair liver function. This can cause seizures in mothers and result in reduced growth and development of the baby.

Brown's research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, advances the study of preeclampsia and has been internationally recognized. A paper on his research was published in February by *Scientific Reports*, a prestigious international journal.

"Babies born from a preeclamptic pregnancy are usually born prematurely and end up in the neonatal intensive care unit," said Brown. "They are usually going to be very small. They could have physical problems, cognitive issues, and developmental delays."

"To me, our research has made a significant scientific breakthrough in the field of pregnancy and preeclampsia because our model is so close to what we see in humans. We are one of a few labs in the world that is able to achieve placental-specific gene transfer."

Brown said other research models don't quite mimic preeclampsia because they usually affect the mother's entire body and not specifically the placenta, the organ that supplies oxygen and nutrients to the fetus.

The embryo and placenta grow in two percent oxygen initially, but after the first trimester the oxygen levels rise. If the placenta fails to recognize the increase in oxygen levels, the placenta will develop abnormally and mothers can develop preeclampsia.

Humans have a high level of the oxygen-sensing protein HIF-1, critical for placental development. This protein normally gets turned off in early pregnancy, after the first trimester. When the protein level stays on too long, it has been shown to be associated with the development of preeclampsia.

To directly test the involvement of HIF-1 in preeclampsia, Brown and his team conducted studies on pregnant mice. They created a mutant gene so HIF-1 could not be turned off during development—an animal model of human preeclampsia.

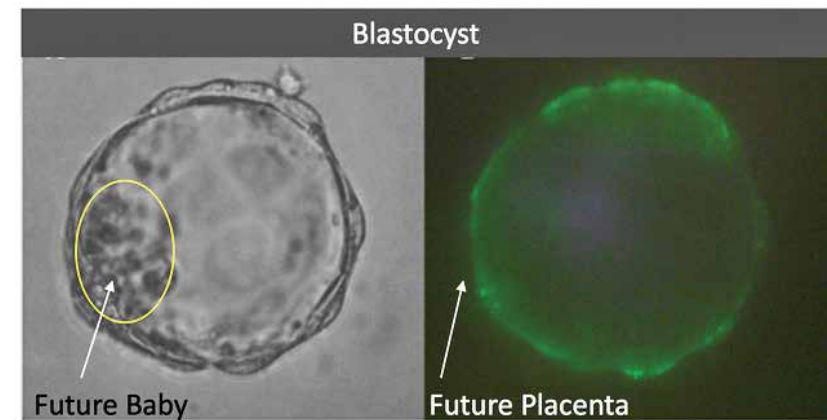
"This is a state-of-the-art model," he said. "It's very sophisticated, so it's a little challenging. And it takes a very dedicated team."

Having identified a molecular target, the researchers can now determine how to regulate it. "We can now look at several exciting avenues of research that could lead to new treatments for this devastating condition," Brown said.

The research team is going to be using promising new technologies that can carry drugs to the placenta without affecting the mother and baby.

"We are looking at identifying the molecular mechanisms underlying how preeclampsia happens, so that we can develop potential therapeutics and how to deliver those therapeutics without harming the mother or baby," Brown said. "That's been the challenge for quite some time. But I think we're getting closer and closer to being able to do that, which is pretty exciting."

Brown says that if a woman develops preeclampsia, she has a two-and-a-half-fold greater chance of having it during her next pregnancy. If a woman's mother had preeclampsia during the



LEFT: DEVELOPING EMBRYO THREE-AND-A-HALF DAYS AFTER FERTILIZATION. INNER CELL MASS (CIRCLED) GIVES RISE TO THE FUTURE BABY. **RIGHT:** SAME EMBRYO, TAGGED WITH GREEN FLUORESCENT PROTEIN TO IDENTIFY CELLS THAT WILL FORM THE FUTURE PLACENTA.

pregnancy, the daughter also has a two-and-a-half-fold greater chance of developing preeclampsia. And if a man's mother was preeclamptic during pregnancy, he has a twofold risk of fathering a preeclamptic pregnancy.

"What we see with women who had preeclampsia is that they are definitely at higher risk of cardiovascular issues when they become older adults," said Brown. "They are also at higher risk of stroke and metabolic diseases such as obesity and diabetes."

Thiessen says research into preeclampsia is critical to understanding what causes preeclampsia and to reducing the racial disparity in surviving childbirth in the United States. She says African American women have the highest rates of preeclampsia and are three to four times more likely to die in childbirth than women of other races.

Brown said the psychological impact of severe preeclampsia can be devastating to the immediate and extended family as well as the mother.

"The baby may be in intensive care for six to nine months," he said. "They might die. You can't touch them, but someone always has to be there. Jobs might be lost. Relationships can become very strained. It's tremendously stressful for all involved."

Thiessen said efforts are needed to better inform patients and families as well as medical personnel to the mental, physical, and psychological aspects of preeclampsia and are of critical importance in treatment and care.

"The public must be made aware that preeclampsia is a very serious condition," she said. "If more people understood what the disease is about and the impact it can have from a scientific, medical, and personal perspective, it would help to deal with this harrowing experience."

The Endowment for Research on Pregnancy-Associated Disorders at Wright State, established by Brown, is intended to create a permanent funding source for long-term research on preeclampsia and pregnancy-associated disorders. To support this effort, contributions can be made at wright.edu/give to the Pregnancy-Associated Disorders fund.



We are family

Katrina Merriweather and her team finish season strong with unifying trip to NCAA tournament

BY ALAN HIEBER '16



Coaching has been in Katrina Merriweather's blood for most of her life, long before she was named head coach of the women's basketball team at Wright State.

Her father played basketball at Purdue and the University of Indianapolis before establishing a youth mentoring organization, The Family. The organization gives inner-city kids ages 10 to 18 the opportunity to earn a post-secondary education that includes a basketball scholarship.

"His training sessions were unorthodox, but they worked out pretty well," Merriweather said. "He's always been really good at player development. That was always an emphasis, and then he put me in a position to coach teams throughout my high school career—coaching the younger kids."

In 2016, former Wright State coach Mike Bradbury took a job at the University of New Mexico after leading the Raiders to new heights by compiling a 128-73 record and earning the program's first-ever NCAA tournament bid in 2014.

After being an assistant coach on Bradbury's staff for six seasons, Merriweather was handed the torch to succeed him. With the foundation laid, the next step was to build upon it.

"Everybody's goal is to create something special," she said. "In my case it was already there, so the goal was just to keep it special."

In Merriweather's first season at the helm in 2016-17, the team went 25-9, received Top 25 votes, made the National Invitation Tournament (WNIT), and Merriweather received Horizon League Coach of the Year honors. The following year, the Raiders posted a 23-11 mark, made the finals of the conference tournament, and received another WNIT bid. Wright State's 62-44 defeat in the 2018 league tournament title game against Green Bay stung, however.

After splitting the two regular season matchups with the Phoenix in 2018-19, the Raiders did a good job of concealing the fact that they might want another shot at Green Bay.

TOP (COUNTER CLOCKWISE): HEAD COACH KATRINA MERRIWEATHER; THE 2018-2019 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM; IMANI PARTLOW AND MICHAL MILLER EMBRACE AFTER CLINCHING THE HORIZON LEAGUE TITLE (PHOTO CREDIT: R. KEITH COLE); MACKENZIE TAYLOR, SYMONE SIMMONS, AND EMILY VOGELPOHL AT THE NCAA SELECTION SHOW (PHOTO CREDIT: R. KEITH COLE).

Wright State rolled past Oakland in the quarterfinals 83-60 and snuck by IUPUI in the semifinals with a strong fourth quarter, winning 60-51. Waiting for the Raiders in the finals would be none other than their familiar foe, the Phoenix.

At the half, the Raiders led 27-16, but Green Bay would respond quickly with a run of its own. The lead would change hands several times during the second half in true nail-biting fashion.

With just 1:32 remaining, the score was deadlocked at 49. During the Raiders' next possession, the ball was in the hands of senior guard Emily Vogelpohl, a four-year starter. With ice water in her veins, Vogelpohl hit a jumper to push Wright State ahead 51-49 with 1:06 to go.

"I think Emily is probably the one who sacrificed her scoring, but she led our team in assists. She just changed the role she had in previous years," Merriweather said. "All that mattered to Emily was that we won."

The Raiders sank a few clutch free throws down the stretch and held on 55-52 to capture their second-ever Horizon League tournament crown and a bid to the NCAA tournament.

The following Monday, in front of cheering team supporters in the Student Union, the Raiders were announced as a No. 14 seed to face third-seeded Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, that Friday.

When the selection was made official on ESPN, the players jumped with joy.

"The excitement is about seeing your name pop up on that screen. Their reaction was priceless," Merriweather said.

"We're really excited to be here," Merriweather said at a press conference the day before the game. "It is a great place to be right now."

Texas A&M seized the momentum to start the game and went on to hand Wright State an 84-61 loss. However, Merriweather had already made it more than clear that she was the right choice for the job when hired as head coach three years ago.

"I'm very, very proud of this group," Merriweather said. "They just played one of the top 15 teams in the country."

One of the major storylines of the game was Vogelpohl's broken right wrist, sustained in a practice session just six days earlier. It was kept secret until after the defeat. Though at times in excruciating pain, she fought on the court for 22 minutes against the Aggies.

"Emily, over her four-year career, has proven that she deserves to be on that floor. I was never going to sit her as long as it didn't hurt her further," Merriweather said. "Once they answered the question that she could not hurt herself any more, then I knew that she would play and that she would want to play."

One constant Merriweather says contributes to a successful program is the unwavering support of the athletic department staff members.

"From top to bottom, the administration just creates an

environment where it's really genuinely a family, where our first goal is to take care of these kids. I think that's what makes this place unique," she said.

Pinpointing specific people in her support network can be tough, Merriweather added, since it is so far-reaching. Her grandmother, for instance, is in her 80s but won't let distance get in the way of her driving to watch the Raiders.

It could also be people like one of Merriweather's best friends, Ronita, who would send her the song "Big Rings" by Drake and Future as a source of motivation throughout this season. There are lyrics like, "I got a big team" followed by, "They need some really big rings."

"It would be about once a week maybe, and it's just this song that talks about championships," Merriweather said. "She was the one person every time we talked who said, 'Stay the course. You were born to win a championship.'"

When the 2018-19 season began, Merriweather had her reservations about what the squad would ultimately become. Three seniors would go on to become 1,000-point scorers and the school's all-time winningest recruiting class. Vogelpohl, Mackenzie Taylor, and Symone Simmons were the glue. However, the roster also included underclassmen who would need to learn their roles.

"It was a process and it was a journey. In the beginning the chemistry wasn't very good and we hadn't defined roles well," Merriweather said. "When this group decided that they were going to put aside all their distractions, work really hard for three hours a day, and figure out where their talent could actually take them, that was when we turned the corner as a team."

"I give all the credit to my great staff, but also these kids who just made the decision to have the chemistry."

Merriweather also hired as assistant coaches two players from the 2014 league champions, former Wright State guards Abby Jump '14 and Kim Demmings '15.

"It starts with a work ethic, it starts with confidence, and it starts with commitment to working together. Just having people here who had actually won that championship made it real," Merriweather said. "The banners are real, but it's different when bringing some people back that actually played in that game."

Next season, the Raiders will return players such as versatile guards Michal Miller and Angel Baker, and the post presences of Tyler Frierson and Teneshia Dixon.

"We're still extremely talented, we're still big and fast, and we can still create. All those things are the same if not better, but where we have the biggest hole to fill is in leadership and toughness," Merriweather said. "People may not realize how important that is, but without those two things, the points and the rebounds and the assists really don't translate into wins."

One thing is certain, however—this team was big and did indeed get some really big rings.

Above and beyond

The 2019 Alumni Achievement Award winners

BY BING BINGHAM '16



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
Cameron Holsinger '04



GRADUATE OF THE
LAST DECADE
Dr. Christen D.
Johnson '13, '17

Each year, the Wright State Alumni Association recognizes the work of our outstanding alumni with the Alumni Achievement Awards. Alumni are selected based on outstanding accomplishments in their careers and service to and representation of Wright State. The alumni chosen for these honors in 2019 are no exception—they represent the mission, vision, and values of Wright State and drive the spirit of innovation, diversity, and commitment to serving their community.

Winners were nominated from a pool of more than 110,000 alumni and will be honored at a ceremony on October 4 during Homecoming Weekend.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR Cameron Holsinger '04

Wright State's very own connection to the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton* is alumnus Cameron Holsinger '04. His love of musical theatre began with his mother's infatuation with old movie musicals and eventually led him to the musical theatre program.

After graduating in 2004 with a B.F.A., Holsinger went on to work as a production assistant for the musical *Wicked* and hasn't slowed down yet. Since then, Holsinger has been the production stage manager for several national musical tours, including *The Addams Family* and *9 to 5*.

Most notably, Holsinger began working as a stage manager for *Hamilton*, first with the Chicago production in 2016, and now with the Broadway production in New York City. *Hamilton* has received 11 Tonys, a Grammy, and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In addition, Holsinger has continued his deep relationship with Wright State by

mentoring current students and providing backstage tours to visiting faculty and alumni.

"To say that the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures and I are proud of Cameron would be an understatement," said Joe Deer, that department's chair. "He brings great credit to Wright State and demonstrates the qualities and values we prize most highly."

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD Carol and Richard Lundin

After moving from Chicago to Dayton in 2016, Carol and Richard Lundin dove right into the local art scene. The Lundins manage the Front Street Studio Gallery, a warehouse complex that has become a hub of creativity for Dayton artists. The multiple studios and galleries have attracted many to the makerspace, including numerous Wright State students, who can rent studio space for free.

The Lundins were connected with the ArtsGala through one of their artists, and since then have supported the Wright State arts community in immeasurable ways. The Lundins personally curated and delivered art for the 2018 and 2019 ArtsGala, which raises money for scholarships via an annual celebration of student performances and visual art. Their promotion of the event led to the donation of 19 art pieces valued at thousands of dollars that were sold at the yearly silent auction.

"[The Lundins are] thrilled to have recent Wright State graduates making and showing their art because participation by the next generation is key to a thriving arts community and a way to keep young artists in Dayton," said Linda Caron, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE Dr. Christen D. Johnson '13, '17

When Christen Johnson was three years old, her mother took her to the doctor for an ear infection. Upon being treated by the first black medical professional she can

remember seeing, she declared that she wanted to be a doctor when she grew up. Now, after earning her bachelor's degree at Wright State and graduating from the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Johnson is inspiring others around her to pursue medicine as a profession.

While completing her undergraduate degree, Johnson began mentoring fellow students and became involved with the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). In 2013, she was accepted to the Boonshoft School of Medicine, where she was elected president of SNMA. As president, Johnson established bias training to eliminate health disparities among underserved communities, lobbied at the White House to develop addiction medicine curriculum, and conducted a national study on students of color applying to medical school. In 2017, NBC profiled Johnson as one of its "Black 28 under 28."

"Christen has touched the lives of literally everyone she has encountered," said Antoinette Leonard-Jean Charles, former director at the SNMA. "She is affectionately known as a shoulder to cry on, a supportive friend, an encouraging mentor, and a gentle educator."

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Kip Wright '90, '01

Kip Wright graduated from Lake Campus in 1990 and 2001 with an associate degree and a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. Since then, Wright hasn't stopped looking for ways to give back to Wright State and the rest of his community.

With the experience of 40-plus years as a sheriff, probation officer, and investigator, Wright serves as an instructor at the Lake Campus Police Academy and has also served as the president of the Lake Campus Alumni Network since its inception. Additionally, alongside fellow instructor Ron Kremer, Wright established the Lake Campus Community Garden, which has donated thousands of pounds of produce

to local food pantries and connected students with the Mercer County community.

"When people think of Kip, they think of Wright State," says Gretchen Rentz, the development and community relations coordinator at Lake Campus. "Kip never gets tired of helping and is truly the 'Wright' type of role model for our students."

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD Cynthia Jones '05

Cynthia Jones graduated in 2005 with a master's degree in middle childhood education. After serving in the U.S. Air Force for 14 years, Jones came to Wright State to pursue a degree and eventual career that would reflect her appreciation for education, something she passes on to her own children and the students she teaches in the Dayton Public Schools system.

Even after graduating, Jones continues to give back to the Wright State community. She volunteers in the Alumni Zone at almost every home basketball game, serves as the vice president of the African American Alumni Society, and is a lifetime member of the Wright State Alumni Association. Additionally, Jones, in her will, has donated her home to the Wright State University Foundation to fund a scholarship that will honor her mother and grandmother. Jones hopes that the donation and scholarship, which will be awarded to African American students or students with a disability, will inspire others to give back in any way they can.

"Cynthia is an exceptional alumni volunteer," said Greg Scharer, executive director of alumni relations. "She is an amazing individual who cares so deeply about her alma mater that she does everything within her power to help Wright State succeed. Cynthia is such a regular at our events, many alumni don't realize she's not part of our staff."

RAIDER EVENTS



Sapphire Jubilee 2019
The African American Alumni Society is proud to present the inaugural Sapphire Jubilee to recognize the contributions of black alumni, students, faculty, and staff.



Wright Day to Give
Join us on our Founder’s Day, October 1, as we celebrate our third annual 24-hour giving challenge with alumni and friends.



Inaugural Festival of Flight
An all-day celebration of the Miami Valley’s rich heritage in flight! Wright State and local community partners present a day of education, entertainment, and food and drink that highlight our namesakes, the Wright brothers.



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 long-standing tradition of community service.

For more information on upcoming alumni events, visit wrightstatealumni.com/events.

AUGUST 26, 2019 First day of classes	OCTOBER 12 Amigos Latinx Gala	DECEMBER 14 Fall Commencement	MARCH 28 21st Annual ArtsGala
SEPTEMBER 14-15 Ninth Annual Bourbon Tour	DECEMBER 3 Giving Tuesday	JANUARY 13, 2020 First day of classes	MAY 2 Spring Commencement
OCTOBER 4-5 Homecoming Weekend	DECEMBER 13-15 Chicago Holiday Bus Tour	JANUARY 25 Mayan Mosaic Cruise	DEPARTS MAY 3 Norwegian Cruise to Bermuda



1 Karen Hunt '86, guest Adrienne Fleming, and Marlene Johnson '86, enjoy a game of roulette at Rowdy Gras 2019 on March 2. **2** Alumni and friends from around the Cleveland area gathered at the Cleveland International Film Festival in March for a special screening of *American Factory*, a documentary directed by Julia Reichert, professor emerita, and Steve Bognar, former faculty member, of the motion pictures program. **3** Travis Greenwood '84 and his wife, Lisa, attend the 20th anniversary of ArtsGala on April 13. **4** In March, alumni Grace Liesch '17, Caitlin Geisser '17, Caroline Chisholm '17, Dakota Mullins '17, Nathan Pecchia '17, and Bailey Edmonds '17 gathered at an alumni happy hour in New York City to celebrate the Model U.N. team's participating in the National Model U.N. Conference. **5** Mary Beth and Pierre Horn, former professor of French, and alumna Chelsea Clawson '13 chat during the Murder Mystery Dinner Train event in Fort Myers, Fla. **6** More than 25 alumni and friends from south Florida attended the Murder Mystery Dinner Train event hosted by the Tampa Alumni Network, including President Cheryl B. Schrader, Ph.D., her husband Jeff, and their daughter Ella. **7** More than 30 alumni gathered at the Old 502 Winery in Louisville, Ky., for a wine tasting at the annual Wine Trail Tour on May 18 and 19.

FAREWELLS

2000s–2010s

Nicholas Uphoff '02

1990s

Bradford Carter '90

1980s

Theodore Staton '80

Mary Urich '80

1970s

Kathryn Depew '76

Thomas Ryan '76

John Van Brakle '78

Esther Williams '77

FACULTY AND STAFF

David S. Atwater

Louis Falkner

Nina Lee (Dorsey) Fannin

F. Edwin Johns

Willie J. Moncree, Jr.

Connie Niles

James Walker

We rely on family and newspaper obituaries to inform us of the deaths of Wright State alumni, faculty, and staff. This list was compiled between February and May 2019. Please send all death notices to alumni_news@wright.edu.

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

James Walker

Former professor of political science James Walker died peacefully at home March 17, 2019, surrounded by his loving family.

Jim was born March 11, 1942, in Chicago to parents James Walker and Lucille (Tamborine). He attended Santa Clara University as an undergraduate and earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley. He married Patricia O'Malley in 1965 while at Berkeley.

Jim was also a veteran, serving as a captain in the Army stationed at the Pentagon during the Vietnam War. After his military service, Jim began a long and distinguished career as professor of political science at Wright State University.

"Jim Walker flourished as a teacher, scholar, and engaged community citizen in Wright State's academic landscape," said Chuck Taylor, Ph.D., dean emeritus for the College of Liberal Arts. "Jim symbolizes, for those of us fortunate to know him, the deep pride we feel in all that was accomplished by faculty, staff, students, and administrators working together to build Wright State."

He published books and many articles and was an expert in constitutional law. He loved teaching and touched the lives of many students in his 33 years at Wright State.

"I am forever grateful for the support and encouragement Professor Walker gave me," said Montgomery County Commissioner Judy Dodge '85. "I would have never completed my college career without him. He was a dear friend and mentor."

After retirement, he and his wife, Pat, retired to Tucson to be close to many golf courses and his grandchildren. His family, friends, and colleagues will remember Jim for his tremendous warmth and generous nature, his sharp wit and sense of humor, and his wisdom and intelligence. He adored his family and his many friends. He was a wonderful cook, loved golf and tennis, the Sunday morning news shows, and traveling with his wife and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia, his children Kathy (Robert) Bodenhemier and Chris (Ching Mei Kuo), and his grandchildren Lucy, Sam, and Daniel.



CLASS NOTES

'19 SARAH RUNYAN (M.ED.) joined the development team at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine as the annual giving coordinator.

'17 ELIZABETH DAKIN (B.A.) joined the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission in Wilmington, Ohio, as an associate planner. NOELLE DOWNEY (B.A.), a freelance writer and editor, runs *Ripcord*, a nonprofit literary arts publication she created. VIVI MARQUEZ (B.A.) is an assistant softball coach at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Ill.

'16 BING BINGHAM (B.S.B.) (B.A.) was hired by Wright State University's Office of Alumni Relations.

'14 CAMERON BLANKENSHIP (B.F.A.) starred in *Bunnicula* at the Mile Square Theatre in Hoboken, N.J. MATTHEW JOHNSON (B.S.) received a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

'13 MICHAEL HAM (B.A.) published *Beyond the Challenges: A Book of Life Lessons*.

'12 BAYLEE BUTLER (B.A.), who works in the Chillicothe, Ohio, office of Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, was awarded the organization's leadership award. CHRISTIAN CONE-LOMBARTE (B.S.) was ordained as a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. CHAD GARVEN (M.P.H.), who practices family medicine at Neighborhood Family Practice in Cleveland, was honored with the 2017 Family Physician Mentorship Award by The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. JACOB IMPELLIZZERI (B.A.) is commander of the Pacific Air Force's F-16 Fighting Falcon Demonstration Team at Misawa Air Base in Japan. MICHAEL KOENIG (M.S.), a teacher at Greenville (Ohio) Senior High School, won the National Association of Geoscience Teachers 2019 Ohio Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award. KYLE KRIDLER (M.P.A.) was appointed assistant city manager of Delaware, Ohio. LAKIA YOUNG (M.P.A.) was named director of admissions for the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

'11 STEFANIE HREHA HUNTER (B.A.) was promoted to corporate marketing and recruitment manager at Evolution Research Group LLC, an independent clinical research site company based in Providence, N.J.

'10 KEVIN CARTER (B.A.), a cybersecurity expert and hip-hop artist, organized the For Dayton By Dayton concert at RiverScape MetroPark in Dayton. HOLLY JACKSON (B.A.) (M.A.) was hired as the new student success librarian at Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pa. SHARON SHASLEY (M.A.), who teaches music at Lincoln Elementary school in the Springfield (Ohio) City School District and piano at the Wittenberg University Center of Music Development, received an Excellence in Teaching Award.

'09 RYAN MUHLENKAMP (M.S.), system director of operations access and referral management for Premier Physician Network, was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019 "Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders. NAN WHALEY (M.P.A.), mayor of Dayton, was selected to receive a special recognition from the Dayton Area Broadcasters Hall of Fame for her interest and support in securing a permanent home for the hall in the Dayton Convention Center.

'08 ELIZABETH KOELKER (B.S.), executive director of Kettering Health Network's Oncology Service Line, was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019 "Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders. BRIAN POWELL (B.S.), director of engineering at Tangram Flex Inc., was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019 "Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders. CASSANDRA STEWART (B.S.B.), controller of Krush Media, was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019 "Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders.

'07 CARESSA BROWN (B.S.), owner of Dayton Emerging Fashion Incubator LLC, was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019 "Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders. WARREN GAVIN (M.D.), a hospitalist at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis and a member of the faculty at the Indiana University School of Medicine, received the 2019 Outstanding Teaching Faculty Award for IU Health Methodist

MICHAEL R. ROEDIGER '12 AND ALEXIS LARSEN '98

The Dayton area's largest art organization, The Dayton Art Institute (DAI), is led by two Raiders, Michael R. Roediger '12 and Alexis Larsen '98. Roediger serves as executive director and CEO of DAI, where he has worked since 2011. He is the first person born and raised in the Dayton community to hold the position of director, something of which Roediger is extremely proud.

"I also understand the magnitude of the great responsibility," Roediger said.

Larsen came to DAI as external affairs director in 2011, after a 13-year career at the *Dayton Daily News*. There she held many positions, including graphic designer and eventually working her way to editor of various sections of the paper.

The two have made several improvements to DAI since coming on in 2011, including paying off \$16.5 million of bond debt in October 2017 as part of the museum's commitment to financial stewardship.

"We worked hard together as a board and as a team to pay that off so we could go into the next century without carrying that burden," Roediger said.

Roediger and Larsen also hold the honor of leading DAI as the organization begins its centennial celebrations in 2019, which will include special exhibitions and events. Special care of the institute's building and collection must also be taken as the organization enters its second century.

Roediger holds a master's degree in leadership development and has participated in graduate studies in professional writing at Brown University. Originally from Eau Claire, Wisc., Larsen earned her bachelor's degree in mass communications in 1998. She is also a member of the Dayton Sister City Committee.



RAIDERS ON TOUR

For more information or to book a tour, please visit wrightstatealumni.com/travel or call 937-775-2620.

The Wright State Alumni Association offers trips and tours with unique itineraries exclusively to our Wright State family of alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and retirees.

2019–2020 Travel & Tours

Chicago Holiday Bus Tour
2-day Dayton to Chicago bus trip for the holidays
December 13–15, 2019

Maya Mosaic
7-night cruise from Miami to Roatán and back
January 25–February 1, 2020

Wright State Alumni EXCLUSIVE Norwegian Cruise to Bermuda
7-day luxury cruise from New York City to Bermuda
May 3–10, 2020

Medieval Sojourn
10-night cruise from Barcelona to Athens
October 5–16, 2020

JOSHUA STUCKY '98

Joshua Stucky '98 has watched crossdressing go from taboo to mainstream in his 35 years of performing and fundraising for LGBTQ causes. Stucky's charity work began with a troupe of just four drag queens doing shows out of their house on Rubicon Street in Dayton. They called themselves the Rubi Girls.

"We were losing friends to HIV/AIDS," Stucky said. "We decided to use our act to help out our friends who were facing this horrible disease."

It didn't take long before word got around about their outrageous performances, all for a good cause. Audiences loved the routine and found it to be a fun and different way to raise money for charity. For more than 30 years, the Rubi Girls have performed and raised money to support AIDS Resource Center Ohio, now called Equitas Health.

Fast forward to 2015, when a big change came for The Rubi Girls. The troupe became an official 501(c)(3) charity organization, with large corporate sponsors. Donations to The Rubi Girls have tripled since becoming an official nonprofit organization. "We're going to hit \$2 million at our big event in November," Stucky said. "That's just huge."

In addition to his philanthropic work with the Rubi Girls, Stucky co-owns Square One Salons in four locations in and around Dayton and two in the Columbus area. Through his business, Stucky is committed to raising money for the local community through its focus on community and charity. A longtime writer, Stucky has published articles for several local publications in Dayton, and in 2015, he presented a talk at TEDx Dayton called "Unleash Your Rubi Girl" about how he created the organization to become a change agent and finding laughter as that basis of change.

Stucky earned his bachelor's degree in education in 1989. He was a practicing teacher in the Kettering School District for 25 years before retiring. He also holds a master's degree in literature with a concentration in children's literature.



CEO of the Greater Dayton (Ohio) Area Hospital Association.

'02 MICHAEL BRUSH (B.S.), a partner at the Dayton, Ohio, law firm of Miller, Walker, & Brush, was selected to the 2019 Ohio Super Lawyers list for the second consecutive year. STEPHANIE GOFF (M.B.A.) was named acting engineer for Greene County, Ohio.

'01 JOSEPH KNOPP (B.A.) produced *Unplanned*, a feature film about pro-life activist Abby Johnson.

'00 LEE ANN MERCHEN (M.D.), director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at the Medical College of Georgia and Augusta University Health, was named the medical school's assistant dean for clinical curriculum. DIANE REISS (B.S.B.), vice president of the Donald and Evelyn Bensman Foundation, was appointed to the board of trustees of the Community Foundation of Shelby County (Ohio).

'99 JAY PHARES (B.A.), a sergeant with the Miami Township (Ohio) Police Department, was named the 2018 Miami Township Officer of the Year.

'98 JEFFREY BLAKE (B.S.) was named chief people officer at Achieva Credit Union of Tampa, Fla. DAVID BRUSH (B.S.) is the lyricist and librettist of the musical *The Anxiety Project*, which was selected for the Phoenix (Ariz.) Theatre Festival of New American Theatre. MARION A. GREGG II (B.S.) (M.D.), a commander in the U.S. Navy and officer in charge for Navy and Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Two in Norfolk, Va., was named the 2019 Triad Distinguished Alum by Triad High School in North Lewisburg, Ohio. MARCUS MILLER (M.D.) is a medical director for the bariatric program at the Mount Carmel Health System in Columbus, Ohio. TIM A. MOORE (M.D.) joined Fisher-Titus Spine Surgery in Norwalk, Ohio, as an orthopedic spine surgeon.

'97 PHILLIP KHALIL (M.S.) joined the Summa Health Medical Group in Akron, Ohio, to lead the group's otolaryngology specialty. HEATHER VEEDER (M.D.) was named regional medical director for VITAS Healthcare, a Miami, Fla.-based provider of hospice care.

'95 BARRY BESECKER (B.S.) is co-founder of Marxent, a virtual reality and augmented reality company with offices in Dayton, Ohio, and Tampa, Fla., that helps consumers visualize and design their future living spaces.

Hospital Transitional Year Residency Program. DAVID GILLIAM (M.B.A.), associate professor of marketing and coordinator of the International Business Program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, was appointed the Harper W. Boyd Professor of Excellence for 2019. JULIO MATEO (M.S.), senior researcher at 361 Interactive LLC, was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019 "Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders.

'06 KEVIN RUHL (B.S.) received the Medal of Valor award from the Hamilton (Ohio) Police Department, the highest decoration for bravery exhibited by public safety officers in the United States. BRIAN SCHULZE (M.B.A.), director of the Premier Health/Premier Physician Network, was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019

"Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders.

'05 AMANDA BURKS (B.A.) joined Ronald McDonald House Charities in Dayton, Ohio, as a development director.

'04 BRADLEY MADER (B.S.B), president of the Kettering Health Network Credit Union, was named to the *Dayton Business Journal's* 2019 "Forty Under 40" list of those honored as the region's future leaders.

'03 MATTHEW CASTO (B.S.E.E.) (M.S.) joined the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering as the program manager for microelectronics. SARAH HACKENBRACHT (B.A.) was named president and

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/updatesmyinfo to add updated information.

'94 STACY JONES (B.S.) is chair of the Clinical Council at Mercy Health-Fairfield (Ohio) Hospital.

'93 MARCUS MUMPHREY (B.A.) was named head basketball coach at Trimble County (Ky.) High School. JONATHAN WHITE (B.A.) retired as a full colonel in the U.S. Army after serving 26 years active duty.

'92 ERIC MURRAY (B.S.), of MoneyWise financial planning consultants, was honored by the Fairborn (Ohio) Area Chamber of Commerce for his service as a board member and past president.

'91 HEATHER DOUGLAS (B.F.A.) directed *Godspell* at Presentation Academy, a Catholic college-preparatory high school for young women in Louisville, Ky., in honor of her late mother, Charlotte Douglas, who taught drama at the school and expanded its theater program. JENNIFER RAZZANO (B.A.) was hired as director of internal communications by 84.51°, a Cincinnati-based company that provides marketing strategies to more than 300 consumer-packaged-goods companies.

'89 JENNIFER ROSENGARTEN (B.F.A.) had three of her paintings displayed in the atrium of Miami Valley Hospital South's Joint and Spine Center in Dayton. MICHAEL SCHLAMB (B.S.B.), co-owner of R.J. Warner Insurance Agency, was named to the board of directors of State of the Heart Care, a hospice agency serving more than 15 counties in east central Indiana and west central Ohio. MARGARET THOMAS-EVANS (M.A.) was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of English at Indiana University East in Richmond, Ind. JENELLE ZELINSKI (B.S.) was named chief financial officer for Mercy Health-Springfield (Ohio) Regional Medical Center.

'88 KENELM MCCORMICK (M.D.), an associate medical director at Hospice of the Western Reserve, was named the primary medical director of Hospice of North Central Ohio in Ashland, Ohio. ANDY NIEKAMP (M.B.A.) is founder and organizer of Dayton Hikers and chief adventure officer at Outdoor Adventure Connection in Dayton, Ohio. MARIAN SPICER (B.A.) was appointed to serve a three-year term on the board of trustees for Wilson Health hospital in Sidney, Ohio. DON BROWN (B.A.), a sportscaster for WKEF-TV and WHIO-TV in Dayton, Ohio, was selected for induction into the Dayton Area Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

'83 FRANCES A. DUNTZ (M.B.A.) is a project director for acquisition domain capabilities integration for Stellar Innovations &

CHRISTOPHER BARNES '11, '12

When College of Education and Human Services alumnus and history teacher Christopher Barnes, '11, '12, set up an escape room game in his classroom to teach his students a simple history lesson, it didn't go quite as planned. His students turned the classroom upside down looking for clues. One student dumped the trash can over and was examining scraps of paper. Another cried in the corner.

The incident led Barnes to come up with the idea of shrinking the game into something that could fit into a pizza box and be solved on students' desks. He developed a series of envelopes containing puzzles to be solved in succession. One envelope would contain clues to opening the next. This time, the lesson went much more smoothly.

Barnes made a grown-up version of his escape box to show his family and friends. After playing, they insisted he had a salable product. Barnes soon launched Escape the Crate, a bimonthly service that delivers the escape room experience directly to subscribers' homes. Each box uses the escape format to teach about history. Past boxes include Escape the Confederate Spymistress, Escape: Outlaw, and Escape the Titanic.

In the early days of Barnes' business, he was still teaching, and would regularly sacrifice sleep to work on Escape the Crate. Finally, at the urging of his loved ones, he made the difficult decision to resign from teaching to make and distribute escape boxes full time.

Escape the Crate now has thousands of subscribers all over the world and recently surpassed \$1 million in sales. The product has been featured on TV's *Let's Make a Deal* and was on *USA Today's* 2019 Reader's Choice list of top 10 subscription boxes. Barnes, now 30 and living in Columbus, Ohio, still comes up with the puzzles and even stuffs the envelopes himself. He comes to the Miami Valley regularly to show teachers how to use escape rooms in the classroom. Barnes is also a camp instructor and animal handler at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.



Solutions in Moraine, Ohio. WOODY WILLIS (B.S.) joined Altamira Technologies Corporation in Fairborn, Ohio, to work in software development and new business activities.

'75 TIMOTHY BICKEL (M.E.) was inducted into the Sidney (Ohio) City Schools Hall of Honor. JEFFREY RUTLEDGE (B.F.A.), a sculptor-painter, opened a stone and metal studio in Taos, N.M.

'74 LINDA TOOMEY (B.A.) was honored by the Marietta Chapter of the National Guild of Piano Teachers during a recital with her current and former students marking 50 years of teaching piano and organ.

'71 DAVID SCHWINN (M.B.A.) is a full-time professor of management at Lansing (Mich.) Community College and a part-time consultant in the college's Small Business and Technology Development Center.

'69 GALE KOOKEN (B.S.B.) is founder and chief executive of the Dayton Phoenix Group, a privately owned Dayton, Ohio, company

that makes sub-assemblies and critical components for railroad locomotives.

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

Buster's Vacation

Uncle Orville takes his nephew on an adventure to Kitty Hawk

BY DAWNE DEWEY '80, '84,
HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
AND ARCHIVES

Ten-year-old Horace “Buster” Wright went on the adventure of a lifetime during the fall of 1911 with his famous uncle.

Orville Wright made his last trip to the dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C., in October 1911 to conduct gliding experiments and test a new automatic stabilizing system he and his brother Wilbur had invented. He invited Buster to go along.

Orville's older brother Lorin, Buster's father, and English aviator and friend Alexander Ogilvie accompanied them. Buster was more than glad to go—a train trip, a boat trip, camping on the dunes, and no school. The group arrived at Kitty Hawk ahead of the glider, so they had about a week to explore before the flying started. On the agenda was sleeping in the loft of the old camp building, swatting mosquitoes, running across the sand chasing chickens, and fishing.

They rented a boat to use during their



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

stay, so fishing was first on the list. The cold, damp air didn't stop them. Orville and Lorin were bundled up in starched collars and long johns, while Buster wore a heavy coat, and all three donned big straw hats. Buster's schoolbooks and fishing tackle were tucked away in a corner, the books likely unopened the whole trip.

After the glider arrived, they were out on Sand Hill each day. Newsmen showed up and asked what they did in the hangar. Orville, annoyed, refused to talk. But Buster spoke up: “Oh, we wax up the glider 'n talk about flyin.” On October 24, Orville set a soaring record of nine minutes, 45 seconds. His record would last for 10 years.

When newsmen asked Orville why

he had returned to Kitty Hawk, he downplayed the gliding and said, “Well, we are going to make some gliding experiments, but the real reason of our coming is this young man. He needed a vacation and we thought he might as well spend it here as elsewhere.”

Buster's vacation to Kitty Hawk is recorded in a small photograph album that is part of the Wright Brothers Collection in Special Collections and Archives.

For more information on the collections in the Wright State Special Collections and Archives, visit libraries.wright.edu/special.

59 SECONDS.

That's all it took for the Wright brothers to change the world.

59 SECONDS.

In less than a minute, they made powered flight a reality.

ONE SECOND.

That's all it can take to change a student's life.



Join us October 1, no matter where you are, to celebrate our founders' day during our third annual giving day.

BE THE ONE to stand up for Wright State students and **GIVE** on October 1.

wright.edu/wrightday2give | [#WrightDay2Give](https://twitter.com/WrightDay2Give)



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OCTOBER 4 & 5
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NEW THIS YEAR: FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
A FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE AVIATION IN THE MIAMI VALLEY

