



SPRING 2005

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

VOLUME 6 NO. 1

## Faculty Recognitions

**Jeanne Ballantine**, Professor of Sociology, was recently named University Professor.

**Elfe Dona**, Instructor of German, was awarded the President's Award for Excellence: Outstanding Instructor.

**Robert Rubin**, Lecturer of English, and **Charles Larkowski**, Professor of Music, are this year's recipients of the Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching awards from the CoLA Community Advisory Committee and the Alumni Advisory Committee.

**Xenia Bonch-Bruevich**, Assistant Professor of Spanish, and **Kirsten Halling**, Assistant Professor of French, received over \$12,000 in grant support from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce to produce "Welcome to Dayton," a promotional video and resource CD in French, German, Russian, and Spanish.

**Beth Klaisner**, Lecturer of English and CoLA advisor, has been selected to attend the Bryn Mawr Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration from June 26 to July 22.

**Ava Chamberlain**, Associate Professor of Religion, has been named a Jonathan Edwards Fellow by the Beinecke Library at Yale University.

## WorldFest The World Comes Together at WSU

The College of Liberal Arts, the University Center for International Education, and the Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center hosted the international celebration *WorldFest*. The event was held in the Millett Hall Atrium and it included food, music, and fashion, along with cultural dances and exhibits, and raised \$4,500 for scholarships for students studying abroad.



The three-hour event's purpose was not only to raise money for Wright State students to study abroad and for international students to study at Wright State, but also to raise awareness of the need for these scholarships.

The evening was filled with entertainment for the guests, which included faculty, staff, and alumni. Faculty and students made presentations and held a silent auction, and Amber Rose Catering supplied a popular food buffet.

This was the first year of *WorldFest* but the organizers hope to do it again in the future in a slightly different format, possibly featuring a major international performer. The event's corporate sponsors were ING Financial Services/John Reeber and Kurz-Kasch.



Welcome  
New CoLA Faculty for Fall 2005

English

**Erin Flanagan,**  
Assistant Professor  
**John Haught,**  
Assistant Professor

History

**Awad Halabi,**  
Assistant Professor  
**Noeleen McIlvenna,**  
Assistant Professor  
**Tim Pollack,**  
Assistant Professor  
**Jonathan Winkler,**  
Assistant Professor

Modern Languages

**Kevin Hudson,**  
Instructor of French

Political Science

**Pramod Kantha,**  
Assistant Professor

Sociology/Anthropology

**Mike Norris,**  
Assistant Professor  
**LaFleur Small,**  
Assistant Professor

Religion, Philosophy, and Classics

**Awad Halabi,**  
Assistant Professor of Religion  
**Julie Hruby,**  
Instructor of Classics  
**J. Woodrow McCree,**  
Instructor of Religion and Philosophy

Social Work

**Beth Kinsel,**  
Assistant Professor  
**Sarah Twill,**  
Assistant Professor

Theater

**Tong Wang,**  
Assistant Professor

Urban Affairs and Geography

**Daniel Johnson,**  
Assistant Professor

## From the Dean...



The 2004-05 academic year comes has been another outstanding year for the College of Liberal Arts. We continue to enhance our academic teaching, scholarship, and professional service mission. Highlights of this year include:

- Continued increase in enrollments and undergraduate and graduate majors;
- Continued success in the “Tomorrow Takes Flight” capital campaign with over \$4 million in commitments made to CoLA since 1999;
- Continued seeking of external funding including a grant from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation to support the Department of Modern Languages;
- Continued success for the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the Model United Nations Team designated as an outstanding delegation;
- Continued success of the annual ARTSGALA which has raised \$90,000 for student scholarships;
- Garnering of four national awards in theatre, including recognition of Selena Burks, whose film was selected to be shown at the Sundance Film Festival;
- Creation of the first ever *WorldFest* event to celebrate internationalism and raise scholarship funds;

As the 2004-05 academic year draws to a close, I prepare to leave Wright State University. Effective October 1, 2005, I will be the Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University, my alma mater. Although I look forward to returning to my undergraduate institution, it is with much regret that I will leave the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Liberal Arts. My 26 years at Wright State have been marked with exciting opportunities from the creation of the Center for Urban and Public Affairs to the development of the Urban Administration (now Public Administration) master’s program. I am very proud to have been a part of the growth of the college and university, and I will take all of this invaluable experience to my new college. Thanks for all of your support.

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS—Wright State University

The CoLA Newsletter is published by the College of Liberal Arts for its alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends. Contact us at Wright State University, 163 Millett Hall, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001. Phone: (937) 775-2225 FAX: (937) 775-2181

We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions. Submit newsletter items to [deborah.witt@wright.edu](mailto:deborah.witt@wright.edu)

FIND US ON THE WEB

[www.wright.edu/cola](http://www.wright.edu/cola)

## ArtsGala 2005

With a backdrop of art, music, and theatre, the Dayton community once again showed their support at the sixth annual ArtsGala, which raised \$90,000 for need-based regional scholarships in the fine and performing arts.

Over 550 guests attended the event, which featured a performance by the Wind Symphony, a student concerto, a Broadway Revue, and a student film festival. Attendees were also able to watch students as they created artwork live throughout the night. "ArtsGala is an opportunity for the community to experience all of WSU's fine and performing arts in one evening while supporting scholarships for local students," said Lori Dock, development officer for the College of Liberal Arts.



ArtsGala 2005 was presented by Wright-Patt Credit Union and sponsored by *Dayton Daily News*, Morris Home Furnishings, WHIO-TV, and BGHemagine. Proceeds were also raised through event ticket sales, as well as live and silent auctions featuring a travel package to Italy, in-home chef-prepared dinners, rocking chairs decorated by local artists, artwork, and much more. A raffle was also held for the top prize of a Sony Home Entertainment system or \$5,000 Morris Home Furnishings Gift Card.



Since 2000, approximately \$500,000 has been raised and more than 80 students have been benefited from ArtsGala scholarships. "This event has grown each year and is an important fundraiser for the College of Liberal Arts, as well as a point of pride for the university," Dock said.

Mark your calendars for next year's ArtsGala on April 1, 2006. Call (937) 775-5512 for more information.

## Undergraduate Student Symposium: A Showcase of Research Efforts

The second annual Undergraduate Student Symposium was held May 4 to honor six students who were nominated by one or more professors. The purpose of the colloquium is to allow students from each of the CoLA programs, at or near graduation, to present materials from their own research. The criteria for selection included: logical organization, mastery of the discipline, appropriate documentation for written work, and the engaging and creative presentation of an interesting topic. Each student was from a different area of the college. The following students presented:

*Andy Alt (Music)*, "The Origins of Rock and Roll from Rhythm and Blues."

*Andrew Dailey (Art and Art History)*, "Susanna Surprised by the Elders: A Sculpture from the Dayton Art Institute's Collection."

*James T. Mosher (Political Science)*, "A Hidden Challenge: China and Migrant Workers."

*Karen Sisk (English)*, "Collection of Poetry."

*Rachel Peterson (Religion)*, "Myth as Essential in Plato's Republic."

*Angela Yurtin (Theatre)*, "Apollo's Lament."

Sharon Nelson, Associate Dean for the college, called the event a success, as more than 45 guests attended the symposium.



From left to right: Rachel Peterson, Karen Sisk, Andrew Dailey, James Mosher, Angela Yurtin, and Andy Alt.

## Film Festival for Motion Pictures Students

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Big Lens Film Festival, featuring the films of Wright State students, took place Thursday, May 26 at the Dayton Art Institute, and Sunday, May 29 at the Neon Movies in downtown Dayton.

The festival featured five short independent films, including the documentary *Saving Jackie* by Selena Burks, which recently played at the Sundance Film Festival.

"The stories these individuals tell with their cameras are truly unique and powerful," said Jill Malusky, a contributor to the project.

The festival is an independent event put on by Wright State students and alumni. The films vary from narrative to documentary to experimental, and discuss issues such as families, racism, and drug addiction.

The films playing this year include: *Farm & Family*, *In Terms of Men*, *Nicked*, *Reconstructing Beecher*, and *Saving Jackie*.

"Anyone working in the arts community knows the time and sacrifice that go into making your work. The dedication and passion the filmmakers have, to have it and be recognized by your peers, is very gratifying," Malusky said.

*Have a wonderful summer!*

Wright State University

College of  
Liberal Arts

## Summer Programs Abroad

### *Art Students Travel to Italy*

The Art and Art History Department is sending 20 students to Italy for a summer studio program.

Diane Fitch and Glen Cebulash of the Art Department and the students will stay in Florence, Italy, for three weeks. During their stay, students will spend the mornings painting and drawing the Tuscan landscape.

Afternoons will be spent in Florence's museums and churches, studying, drawing and discussing the masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance. They will also take day trips to Arezzo and Siena and end the trip with two days in Rome.



*A student from the 2003 Summer program paints in one of the streets of Florence.*

Students participating in the program will register for a 4-credit-hour general education class or a 4-credit-hour studio class in painting or drawing. "Students will be making their own work while at the same time studying the work of the Italian masters," Diane Fitch says. Professors Fitch and Cebulash plan to conduct the trip every other year. In 2003 the Art Department sponsored the course in Italy with 15 students participating. The Art Department is planning a landscape drawing and painting course in Vermont next year, hoping to make that a tradition in the summers that the Italian trip isn't offered.



*View from the acropolis of the ancient city of Kleonai*

the Dorati Survey Project, which is a newly discovered Bronze Age site in Greece's northeastern Peloponnesos. The students will study ceramic artifacts that were collected last year.

In the second group, three undergraduate Classics majors — Andrew Lotton, Tim Hudson, and Mason Weed — will assist Dr. Marchand in excavations at an ancient temple of Athena at Kleonai, also located in Greece's northeastern Peloponnesos.

"This is a rare opportunity," said Dr. Marchand, concerning the prospect of students gaining hands-on archeological experience. She adds, "They will also have the opportunity to experience Greek village life and to learn some of the language." Each month-long project will be sponsored by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the German Archeological Institute.

### *Students Going to Greece*

Dr. Jeannette Marchand, Assistant Professor of Classics, will take two groups of students from Wright State University with her to Greece this summer to work on her archeological survey projects.

In the first group, two graduate students, Sherri Martin and Jessica Storer, and an undergraduate student, Jillian Larkowski, will assist Dr. Marchand on



*Dorati material at study site in Ancient Corinth*

## Paula Ackerman, *Anthropology*



Paula Ackerman, an anthropology major and member of the CoLA Leadership Institute, was recently accepted into medical school. She will begin medical school in the fall of 2005 at Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Ackerman said she participated in numerous academic and extracurricular activities to add to her knowledge gained from Wright State.

Ackerman spent time in other countries as a part of the study abroad program, including doing research of Chagas Disease in Ecuador in the summer of 2004 and in Costa Rica in December of 2002. She also spent the summer of 2001 in Spain. "I took my first anthropology class while studying language in Spain, and after that experience declared my anthropology major," Ackerman explains.

She spent three years employed at Wright State's Office of Outdoor Recreation. Ackerman, who "likes being involved outdoors," said that one of her biggest achievements at Wright State was "helping the Office of Outdoor Recreation grow to the size it is today, and watching WSU students enjoy the outdoors."

In the future she wants to blend her knowledge of medicine and anthropology to make helping people easier. She said, "Medicine is more than a science. It is humanity and it is necessary to integrate it and anthropology into practice." Ackerman said she really enjoyed her time at Wright State and adds, "I discovered a passion for medicine after taking a Medical Anthropology course. WSU taught me that I have the drive and talent to apply and be competitive." Ackerman will graduate after spring quarter 2005 with an anthropology degree as well as Spanish and biology minors.

## Selena Burks, *Motion Pictures*



Selena Burks, a recent graduate of the Motion Pictures program, recently produced and directed a film called *Saving Jackie*. The film was selected to be screened five times at the Sundance Film Festival.

*Saving Jackie* tells the true story of a 42-year-old woman recovering from a crack-cocaine addiction. The woman happens to be Burks's mother, thus the film is essentially a portrait of the experiences shared by both women. Burks said that the purpose of her film "is to touch the lives of individuals affected by drug abuse."

Although her film did not receive an award, Burks said it was an honor simply to have it screened at such a prestigious film festival. "Some of the best criticism and compliments came from professional filmmakers at Sundance, and I felt honored to speak with these individuals after they watched my film," Burks said. Burks also said that the film matched very well with other movies screened at Sundance and that many of the average movie-goers loved the film.

Julia Reichert, a film professor at WSU and an independent filmmaker, was thrilled with Burks's idea for the film. She told Burks to "go all out with this film." The film became the project and learning tool of many film students in the major, providing Burks with a full production crew. The entire film was shot on digital videotape and edited at the Wexner Center, an Ohio State-affiliated facility that provides independent filmmakers with the means to edit and prep a newly shot film before playing it on the big screen. Currently Burks has been an active motivational speaker. The highlight of her speeches relate "the importance of forgiveness and unconditional love," said Burks.

## Brandy Foster, *English*



Brandy Foster, a senior English major and staff member of *Fogdog*, is one of the 10 English majors helping create a very different *Fogdog* issue. "This issue is something new; we decided to open it to the entire college," Foster explains.

*Fogdog* has a staff that includes nine undergraduate English majors, an English graduate student layout designer, and faculty advisor Annette Oxindine, Associate Professor of English. Foster said that this edition is about collaboration. It is not like any previous *Fogdog*. Generally, *Fogdog* only includes non-Fiction essays about literature.

This edition will include artwork, fiction, French and English poetry and papers written by graduate and undergraduate students throughout COLA.

It will also include the feature "Au Courant," which translates to mean "in the moment." The staff of *Fogdog* posed a series of questions to COLA students, trying to "capture culture in the moment," said Foster. "Au Courant" was initiated last year and will be a regular feature of *Fogdog*.

Foster also said that she and the rest of the staff thought this issue was a lot more work and riskier than previous editions because of opening it to all of COLA and not knowing if students and faculty would be interested in participating.

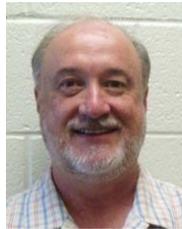
# Congratulations to CoLA's 2005 Outstanding Alumni!

On Saturday, April 23, 17 outstanding alumni were recognized at a special ceremony in the Millett Hall Atrium. After enjoying dinner and music by the Saxophone Quartet, COLA's department chairs presented each recipient with a certificate and a WSU coverlet to commemorate the evening. Congratulations to this year's outstanding alumni!

## The Recipients



Byron Thomas  
B.A., African American  
Studies and Sociology,  
2002



Dr. Robert Brooks  
B.A., Anthropology,  
1971



Douglas Hickey  
B.A., Sociology, 1995; M.S.,  
Applied Behavioral Sciences,  
1997



Jean Koeller  
BFA, Art and Art  
History,  
1982



Janice D. Gabbert  
B.A., Classics,  
1970



Virginia Gimenez  
B.A., Communication,  
2002



Jenny Crusie M.A.,  
Professional Writing and  
Women's Literature,  
1986



Claudia Watson  
B.A., History, 1975 and  
M.A., History,  
1985



Charlie Ehle  
B.A., International  
Studies,  
1996



Derek Petrey  
B.A., Modern  
Languages,  
1992



Nancy Feld  
B.A., Music, 1984  
Wanda Coalson  
B.M., Music, 1978



Mark T. Conrad  
B.A., Philosophy,  
1988



Michael Good  
B.A., Government,  
1968



Barbra Teater  
B.A., Social Work,  
1999



Karen Lahm  
B.A., Sociology, 1995;  
M.A., A.B.S, 1997



Jim Volz  
B.A., Theatre Studies, 1975



Connie Garrison  
B.A., Urban Affairs, 1989

Students in Dr. Jeff John's COM 366 Advanced News Writing class collaborated with the writing of the stories in this newsletter.

## STAY CONNECTED!

Please help us stay connected by updating your alumni record. Send us your "news" and updates.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

If WSU alum, spouse's college \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(work) \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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College of Liberal Arts!**

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Scholarships in Liberal Arts

Specific Department: \_\_\_\_\_

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[https://www.wright.edu/php-bin/foundation/  
online\\_giving.html](https://www.wright.edu/php-bin/foundation/online_giving.html)

I am interested in other giving options. Please contact me at the number listed.

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Wright State University  
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Dayton, Ohio 45435-0001