



SPRING 2008

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

## College Highlights

**Congratulations faculty, staff, and students on your achievements!**

***Dr. Gary Pacernick*, Professor of English, is this year's recipient of the Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching award.**

***Julia Reichert*, Professor of Motion Pictures, and alumni *Steven Bognar* received the 2008 Susan Matsuko Shinagawa Livestrong Cancer Control Leadership Award for their documentary, "A Lion in the House."**

***Carol Cornett*, Lecturer of English, has been awarded the International Education Award from the WSU Center for International Education.**

## Original Andy Warhol photographs added to the permanent Galleries' collection

Wright State University's Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries recently received a donation from the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts. The donation consisted of 155 original photographs taken by acclaimed artist Andy Warhol.

Galleries Coordinator, Tess Cortés, is the person behind this donation. Cortés had originally applied for a grant, but instead, the foundation offered to give her something a little more unique from their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photographic Legacy Program.

The Photographic Legacy Program has over 28,543 original Warhol photographs valued at more than \$28 million. Cortés said, "This kind of donation is very unique. Our galleries don't often get a donation of this scale, so this is very exciting." She believes that the donation from the Andy Warhol Foundation has opened new possibilities in Warhol scholarship for Wright State and the Galleries.

There will be an exhibition of the photographs along with other works from the Galleries' permanent collection from September 9 through October 19, 2008, in the Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries. Because of the sensitivity of the photos, they can only be on display once every year or two. However, like all work in the Galleries collection, they can be made available to view for class study. For more information on the exhibit, please call Tess Cortés at (937)775-2978.



*Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. All Rights Reserved*



# Artsgala 2008

The College of Liberal Arts proudly hosted the ninth annual Artsgala on Saturday, April 5. Held in the Creative Arts Center, this black tie optional event showcased the superb talent of Wright State students in theatre, music and the visual arts. The event raised nearly \$150,000 this year for much-needed scholarships, and overall has raised more than \$800,000 since its inception in 2000.

A new, exciting feature this year was an impressive wine tasting sponsored by Heidelberg Distributing Company. Gala patrons had the opportunity to sample many top quality wines of distinction such as the 2004 Opus One and the 2004 Chateau Mouton Rothschild. An additional highlight included a live radio broadcast by Dayton Public Radio, featuring interviews with patrons as well as recordings of the evening's performances.

Other featured events included a Broadway review; student artists creating as patrons watched; Wind Symphony performance of "Stars and Stripes Forever"; a film festival, including an excerpt from the Emmy Award winning *A Lion in the House*; and gourmet dining by Benham's and Kohler's in five beautifully designed dining halls. The silent auction, which included almost 130 items and raised over \$23,000, featured artwork by WSU students, faculty and alumni; designer jewelry; fine wine; luxury gift baskets, and much more.

Charles Taylor, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, stresses that patrons and sponsors of Artsgala are supporting a worthwhile cause. "Today, many of our students need all the help they can get to afford the full college experience. We're very proud to offer our Artsgala supporters an exciting evening of entertainment as well as the opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of these students."

This year's exclusive presenting sponsor was Barnes & Noble at Wright State. Diamond sponsors were BGH Studios, Chapel Electric Co., Dayton Daily News, Morris Home Furnishings, and WHIO-TV. Gold sponsors were Dayton Public Radio, Houser Asphalt & Concrete, and Gloria and Don Graber. Over 400 student volunteers also helped make the event possible.

Jennifer Cabrera, the college's development and alumni events coordinator, stated, "My goal is to raise enough donations in 2009 to surpass \$1 million as we celebrate our tenth anniversary of Artsgala."



## *Congratulations Model United Nations Team!*



*The Wright State Model UN team competed at National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference and was named **Outstanding Delegation**, the highest honor in that category, representing the country of Canada. It also took home first place for **Outstanding Position Paper**.*

## Faculty Highlights

### ***Michel Coconis: New Assistant Professor of Social Work***

Michel Coconis is a new faculty member of the Social Work Department and she is helping develop the proposal for Wright State University to have its own Master of Social Work program. Coconis said she is hopeful that by 2011, Wright State will offer its own Master of Social Work program and that one of the main goals is that it would be an accredited social work program.



Coconis is from Zanesville, Ohio, and is beginning her eighteenth year of teaching. She has taught at several universities including University of Kentucky, University of Memphis, Grand Valley State University, as well as Miami, Ohio Dominican and Capital universities, having taught in social work, sociology, political science and criminal justice. In addition to teaching, Coconis volunteers with the Ohio Reformatory for Women developing prisoner-led groups and continues in her 25th year as a mitigation investigator in capital defense cases for people facing the death penalty. She's active in many types of social justice activities including women's rights, media reform, rights of the poor, gender identity/sexual orientation issues, criminal justice reform including victims' rights, tax reform, and workers' rights.

Dr. Coconis was selected to be part of the Wright State University's Service Learning Community, which is a new learning community in the College of Liberal Arts for teachers to find ways to involve students more in teaching and learning inside and outside of the classroom. She is looking forward to this opportunity as she considers that "in some classrooms everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner and in that way, we are there for each other."

Coconis is enjoying working at WSU; she likes "the opportunities, enthusiastic students, resources available, workshops, unionized faculty and collegial people."

### ***Stefan Chinov: New Assistant Professor of Art and Art History***

In the fall of 2007, the Art and Art History Department welcomed their newest Assistant Professor, Stefan Chinov who specializes in sculpture and drawing.

Chinov likes the way both sculpture and drawing are incorporated into the art program here at Wright State. He grew up in Bulgaria, where he first discovered his passion for art as a young child. This eventually led to his attending an art based high school.

After high school Chinov attended the National Academy of the Fine Arts, which is the oldest and most renowned academy of the arts in Bulgaria, where he received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts. Six years after receiving his degree from the National Academy he relocated to Dallas, Texas and received his Master's of Fine Arts from Southern Methodist University.

Soon after graduating he started teaching and spent four years at Brookhaven College in Dallas, TX and then two years at East Central University in Oklahoma where his teachings included sculpture and design. His love for both sculpture and drawing would eventually bring him to Wright State. At Wright State, he encourages his students to develop an understanding of sculpture and drawing within the general context of contemporary art. As he explains, "while still rooted in the past, art now is becoming a part of everyday life engaging not only traditional methods but also new technologies to discuss current social, political, and environmental problems."

### ***Interesting hobby for Sociology Professors***

Jacqueline Bergdahl is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Wright State University who teaches methods and statistics courses and on the weekends enjoys a very extraordinary hobby. From March through October, Bergdahl and her husband Mike Norris, also an Associate Professor of Sociology at Wright State, travel across the state to compete in a sport called auto crossing.

Auto crossing is a driving event where cones are set up in a parking lot and contestants are required to drive their sports cars through the course as fast as possible. Bergdahl became involved with auto crossing when she purchased a Porsche 944 back in 1985, and a friend suggested she join the Porsche Club of America. She and Norris currently drive a 1972 Porsche 911. There are six auto crossing events from May to October at various locations and Norris helps set up the course the morning of the race. Awards are given to the contestant with the fastest times for men and women in each class (type of car).

Bergdahl and Norris have a fairly large collection of trophies of their own, some of which are displayed in Bergdahl's office. They'd both eventually like to make a special room in their house for the remaining awards. Bergdahl claims that when it comes to investing money into the sport, she remains "pretty frugal," but admits that when it comes to the money you can spend on this hobby, "the sky's the limit."



*Mike Norris next to their 1972 Porsche 911 at an auto crossing event.*

# Student Highlights

## Fourth Annual Undergraduate Student Symposium

On May 14, the College of Liberal Arts held its fourth annual Undergraduate Student Symposium in the Millett Hall Atrium. The symposium featured presentations by students whose outstanding papers were nominated by their professors. A twelve-member committee evaluated twelve nominated papers; they ultimately decided on the top six papers that highlighted both research and creative efforts. To help with the presentations, the committee provided coaching so the students could present their information in a professional manner.

Sharon Nelson, Associate Dean, organized this symposium, which she believes is an exciting event for students. It is an opportunity to appreciate their scholarly work and to recognize their work in a public setting. Students not only have the opportunity to present in front of an audience, but they are also able to add this honor to their resume. This year's presenters were:



**Linda Morgan** (Women's Studies), "Losing a Child, Bearing a Star: A Personal Inquiry into the 'Gold Star Mother.'" Nominated by Dr. Judith Ezekiel, Professor in Residence of Women's Studies.

**Mike Gray** (English), "After Alice." Short story. Nominated by Dr. Erin Flanagan, Assistant Professor of English.

**Katharine Luebcke** (History), "Women, Religion, and the Growth of Hierarchy in Ancient Israel." Nominated by Dr. Tim Pollack-Lagushenko, Assistant Professor of History.

**Patrick Beatty** (Art and Art History), "Yue Minjun and the Symbolic Smile." Nominated by Dr. Lisa Morrisette, Assistant Professor of Art and Art History.

**Naomi Cowan-Barkley** (History), "From Anglo-Saxon to Anglo-Norman: for Better or Worse?" Nominated by Dr. Tim Pollack-Lagushenko, Assistant Professor of History.

**Karen Maner** (French), "Guide d'Assimilation pour les Français." Multimedia presentation. Nominated by Dr. Marie Hertzler, Assistant Professor of French.

## *Big Lens Film Showcase*

For those looking for more than the average Hollywood Blockbuster, the Big Lens Film Showcase may be just what the doctor ordered. "It's a showcase for recently completed, what we call 'thesis' work in the department," said Mark Lyons, Facilities Manager for the Wright State Motion Pictures Department. "While they are student works, they are of professional quality."

The showcase is not an annual event. "Sometimes it'll happen twice a year, other times it'll be a year and a half," Lyons said. "There are never any guarantees." The fluctuation between scheduled presentations is a result of the time it takes for students to complete junior and senior thesis projects. Once there are five or six filmmakers ready to present, students prepare the showcase.

The Big Lens Showcase is open to the public and is usually a big success in the Dayton area. "Dayton has a very vibrant film community," said Lyons. "Wright State is kind of the foundation of that community." The Showcase draws not just the parents of the students, but also graduates of the Motion Pictures program, as well as people in the community looking for different kinds of films. "A lot of people just look forward to going to these," Lyons said. "We try to have more than one screening because otherwise we have to turn people away."

For those interested in seeing films created by Wright State students, the next Big Lens Film Showcase will likely be in the fall of 2008.

# Student Highlights

## Student Leadership Scholarships and Outstanding Teaching Awards

The members of the Dean's Advisory Board once again selected recipients for the Student Leadership Scholarships and Outstanding Teaching Awards.

Of the 31 student applicants this year, the six students chosen were Brian Ely, Criminal Justice; Angela King, Communication; Tatiana Lurie, International Studies; Paige Piper, French; Nathan Turner, Political Science; and Emily Yantis, Women's Studies. Each of the students was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship.

The recipients of the outstanding teaching awards were Annette Oxindine and Jeannette Horwitz, both faculty from the Department of English Language and Literatures. Each of the winners received a \$1,500 award.

### CoLA Dean's Advisory Board Members:

Kathy Arquilla ('73)

Tammy Combs-McNew ('83, '95)

Diana Dickinson ('86)

Naomi Ewald-Orme ('90)

Eric Friedland ('98 *Retiree*)

Gary Gall ('74)

Dennis Geehan ('78)

Kathy Hinders ('97)

Jim Hughes ('95 *Retiree*)

Carole Kerber ('82, '85)

Eugene Leber ('86)

Angel Lewis ('89)

Tess Little ('75)

Ildiko Marcus ('79)

Mark Owens ('78)

Derek Petrey ('92)

Doris Rowland ('83)

Lew Shupe ('93 *Retiree*)

Uday Sinha ('94)

Curt Slaton ('83)

Sally Struthers ('81)

Judy Thompson ('99)

Peter Wells

## *Social Work Club Holds Third Annual House of Bread Event*

The Social Work Club's third annual House of Bread event held on March 14, 2008, raised thousands of dollars to feed the hungry. The House of Bread is an agency that provides food Monday through Saturday to people in need. The Social Work Club, along with the community organization called the Catholic Order of Foresters, lent a helping hand in raising money to feed the needy at the House of Bread.

This event was a successful fundraiser that drew a crowd of 80 people. Attendees were charged \$10 per person. Students raised \$1,581 and were given an additional \$1,290.50 by the Catholic Order of Foresters for a grand total of \$2,871.50.

About 10 students along with some faculty members helped serve the dinner and assisted in clean up afterward. When asked if there was anything that he would like the public to know about this event, the chair of the social work department, Dr. Carl Brun said, "This is the third year for the event and we will do it again next year, and the year after that." He also encourages everyone to come out and support the project next year. If you are interested, you can contact Dr. Brun at (937) 775-2751.



*From left to right are: Sarah Twill, faculty liaison to the social work club; Sheri McEldowney, graduating senior who was the coordinator of the House of Bread Fundraiser; Bill Evans, Director of the House of Bread; Carl Brun, chair, social work; Bill Flaute, representative of the Catholic Order of Foresters who matched the funds collected by the students.*

# College Highlights

## Concert Band Takes Music Out of the Concert Halls

When Bill Jobert was hired he was asked if he would like to direct the Wright State concert band, previously taught by graduate students. He eagerly accepted and looked for ways to “up the numbers.” Jobert said, “If you come to college and just to go to classes you never really make a connection to the college.”



The concert band is for all students who have an interest in playing regardless of their major. There are no auditions or book costs. The class grade is based on attendance and participation, and the final exam is a concert.



Jobert wanted to offer a class that was a simple and carefree way for students to take a break from the long hours of classes and lecture halls.

This past fall the band held its final concert in the Millett Atrium. Jobert and his students titled it the “Brown Bag Concert.” They made flyers advertis-

ing the concert and encouraged attendants to bring their lunch and enjoy the music. Jobert said, “Concerts like these bring music out of the concert hall to a different and interesting setting.”

The concert band class is offered every quarter under course numbers MUE 266, 466 and 666 (section 02, for all three numbers). Instruments can be checked out and lockers can be rented. For further information about the band contact Bill Jobert at 775-3170 or [william.jobert@wright.edu](mailto:william.jobert@wright.edu).

## Combining Art and Music to Teach Science

An exciting new program will make its way to Wright State’s campus this fall. STEAM<sup>3</sup> - short for science, technology, engineering, art, math, medicine, and music- is similar to the popular STEMM initiatives, but STEAM<sup>3</sup> incorporates art and music into the sciences as well.

STEAM<sup>3</sup> will combine four pre-selected music majors and four pre-selected art majors to put together a class that will be taught by William Jobert, instructor of bassoon and assistant director of bands, and Benjamin Montague, assistant professor of Art & Art History.

Under the professors’ instruction, the eight students will learn about music and art, and then use these two art forms to teach local science teachers from various public school systems.

The students and teachers will be paired into four different teams. Each team will consist of one music major, one art major, and one teacher. The teams will combine their knowledge to come up with a unit plan that combines the two art forms and science.

The unit plans will then be taught by the art and music student at the science teachers’ schools. Depending on where the science teacher is from – elementary, middle, or high school – the unit plan will be developed to fit the appropriate age group.

## Scott Wilson - New Pre-Law Advisor

Unlike most college students, Scott Wilson has known he wanted to major in philosophy since he was a freshman in college. After receiving his bachelor’s degree at the University of Denver, he continued on to graduate school at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he received his Ph.D. and specialized in ethics.

Currently, Wilson is an Associate Professor of Philosophy and the new Pre-Law advisor. He is glad he was able to keep the pre-law advising in the Philosophy department. As the pre-law advisor, Wilson is able to guide students in choosing classes that will help them prepare for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). Wilson goes over different LSAT preparatory strategies and gives students guidelines on how to first begin and later revise LSAT applications. Wilson also advises students to provide guidelines for letters of recommendation, important to every prospective law student.

Since there is no pre-law minor or major within the college, Wilson is happy to work with students one-on-one. Currently, he is working on a website to provide information for students and encouraged interested students. To students who think of themselves as ‘pre-law’, Wilson says, “Find a major you really like and excel in, and begin studying for the LSAT now. Do not wait.” For more information, contact Dr. Wilson at [scott.wilson@wright.edu](mailto:scott.wilson@wright.edu).

# College Highlights

## French Program Receives Top Honors

Wright State University's French program in the College of Liberal Arts Department of Modern Languages won top honors with this year's Outstanding Program Award from the Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA). OFLA is a K-17 organization of foreign language educators in the state of Ohio committed to making foreign language an essential part of every school's core curriculum, beginning with the primary grades, so that every student graduates from high school proficient in a foreign language.

WSU French major, Paige Piper, nominated the program, which she recognized "for going beyond normal foreign language activities, with unique distinctions, innovations and a commitment to excellence." The Wright State University French program has a very active club that hosts dinners, movie nights, and community outreach activities. One example of community outreach took place last fall when the French program hosted a French Immersion Day. Over thirty WSU French students, as well as WSU French faculty, invited 167 area high school students to campus for a day to learn about the university, play games, and communicate entirely in French. Every summer, the program hosts a one-day training session for area high school French teachers. Study abroad opportunities have also grown, and students now have the opportunity to travel to France.

Associate professor of French Kirsten Halling said, "The benefits of studying a foreign language are tremendous; it opens your mind to other cultures, enhances your vocabulary and teaches you about your own language as well!" Currently, 313 students are enrolled in French classes at Wright State University, with 67 students majoring in the language. If you have any questions about the French program, please contact Dr. Halling at 775-2641 or [kirsten.halling@wright.edu](mailto:kirsten.halling@wright.edu).



French Club members.



Immersion Day.

## *CoLA integrates service learning into curriculum*

As the director of Service Learning at Wright State University, Cathy Sayer is heavily involved in creating and fostering civic engagement opportunities for WSU students and faculty. Civic engagement is not simply community service; it is community service designed to prepare students with the knowledge, skills and values to shoulder their responsibilities in our democratic society. Service learning projects constitute one type of civic engagement. Students enrolled in service-learning courses partake in community-based learning experiences that fulfill specific course objectives.

According to Ms. Sayer, "Service learning, done well, benefits all concerned. Students are able to test and apply course concepts and to develop problem-solving, interpersonal communication, and leadership skills. Faculty members may find their work invigorated by gaining a partner in teaching and assessing student work. Community organizations receive valuable assistance with projects they do not have the staff or funds to complete, and both students and faculty gain the satisfaction of knowing they have made a real contribution to the welfare of their community. And from my own personal experience, I would just say it makes teaching and learning more fun!"

A few examples of service-learning classes at WSU include students providing general academic tutoring at Jefferson PreK-8 School and ESL (English as a Second Language) tutoring for students at Belmont High School; a WSU business writing class in which students produce real work for local non-profits; and a group of French students translating Golden Books into French and reading them to pre-school age students in France during their study abroad experience. Student projects have also assisted Glenn Helen Nature Preserve and collected canned goods for homeless shelters.

If you have any suggestions for new community collaborations or would like to provide support for these programs, please contact Ms. Sayer at (937) 775-2471 or [cathy.sayer@wright.edu](mailto:cathy.sayer@wright.edu).



## Motion Picture Alumni's Film, *Held in Sway*, Earns Awards and Prestigious Recognition



*Mirepoix members, from left to right: Mike Dittiacur, John Mays, Russ Faust and Amy Cunningham*

Wright State film students and alumni earned several awards and prestigious recognition at the Cincinnati 48-Hour Film Festival in July 2007. As the contest title suggests, film entries are shot and edited within 48 hours. The prize-winning film, *Held in Sway*, is the collaborative effort of Mirepoix Pictures' four-member production team, which includes Wright State alumni Amy Cunningham, Mike Dittiacur and John Mays.

The romantic short film won Best Musical Score, Best Cinematography, Best Direction and Best Overall Film at the Cincinnati round of competition. In March, the team learned that the film was selected for the Cannes Festival.

"I was very, very surprised," said Amy Cunningham, the cinematographer on the film and a Wright State alumna, on finding out *Held in Sway* would screen at the festival this May. "Cannes is kind of the pinnacle of ... dreams for a filmmaker. So I was very pleased, of course," she said.

Cunningham hopes that Cannes will not only give the film recognition, but also offer the filmmakers opportunities to learn and make new contacts. "We're going to be able to go and talk with other short filmmakers from all over the world," she said.

When asked if she had any advice for current film students, Cunningham said, "Try to meet as many people as you can." She advised that students take advantage of all the opportunities given to them, both from the teachers and from other alums.

To find out more about Mirepoix Pictures or *Held in Sway*, go to [www.mirepoixpix.com](http://www.mirepoixpix.com). More information on the 48-Hour Film Festival can be found at [www.48hourfilm.com](http://www.48hourfilm.com).



*Amy Cunningham with the RED ONE camera in November, 2007.*

## *New Classes teach Philanthropy to Students*

Learning how to raise lots of money and what to do with it is every college kid's dream. The College of Liberal Arts has come up with the perfect class to show students just how to do it. Cincinnati-area philanthropist Roger Grein was trying to find ways to give back to the community that had provided him so much. He wanted to teach others about giving back and share his passion for philanthropy.

To make Grein's goal possible, CoLA created classes that will teach students how to become part of the philanthropic process. The classes are designed to teach students about the non-profit sector and how it works in their community. It allows students to learn the process of grant making to support non-profit organizations and to become involved in the non-profit organizations in their communities.

The classes are separated into two sections taken over two quarters. The first section of the class, given during winter quarter, discusses the fundraising side. In this class, students are charged with raising money for the project. The second section is the philanthropy class, offered during spring quarter. Students learn how to make philanthropic decisions to support organizations within their community. Each class is two credit hours and is offered to any student at Wright State University.

For further information on the project, contact Dr. Jennifer Subban in the Office of Urban Affairs, (937) 775-2941 or [jennifer.subban@wright.edu](mailto:jennifer.subban@wright.edu), or Nan-c Moss at (937) 775-2938 or [nan-c.moss@wright.edu](mailto:nan-c.moss@wright.edu).

# Events

## Alumni Awards Ceremony

On April 26, the College of Liberal Arts hosted the seventh annual Alumni Awards Ceremony in the Millett Hall Atrium. This year the college recognized the outstanding achievements of sixteen CoLA alumni who were nominated by their department chairs for their remarkable success after graduation. The event began with a social gathering, followed by a musical performance by the WSU saxophone quartet. During the ceremony, Dean Charles Taylor presented each alumnus a Wright State coverlet and certificate as the department chairs spoke of the accomplishments of their nominee. The nominees also had the opportunity to make a few remarks. One outstanding alumnus, Robert Wood, who received a B.A. in Political Science and an M.A. in History, fondly recalled the small but challenging classes and the horseback riding club. Before retiring, Robert spent thirty-five years working at WSU and served under all seven presidents.

Jennifer Cabrera, CoLA's Development and Alumni Events Coordinator, said her favorite parts of the event were listening to the alumni share their personal accomplishments after graduation and hearing them reminisce about Wright State. Susan Stollings, assistant to the dean and one of the coordinators of the ceremony, hopes that this great event will continue well into the future.

This year awards recipients are: Mary Oliver (Anthropology); Jeffrey Rutledge (Art and Art History); Elli Bambakidis (Classics); Holly Cantrell (Communication); Teresa Troyer (English); Robert Wood (History); Morgan O'Brien (International and Comparative Politics); David Southworth, Jr. (International Studies); Sue Fox (Modern Languages); Barbara Siler (Music); Donald Dulle (Political Science); K. Stuart Goldberg (Religion); Catherine Rauch (Social Work); Terry Royer (Sociology); Susan Blackwell (Theatre Arts); and Carolina Silva (Urban Affairs and Geography).



*Pictured left to right from the front: (row 1) Sue Fox; (row 2) Mary Oliver, Carolina Silva, Elli Bambakidis, Holly Cantrell; (row 3) David Southworth, Barbara Siler, Catherine Rauch, Susan Blackwell; (row 4) Morgan O'Brien, Robert Wood, Jeffrey Rutledge. Not pictured: Donald Dulle, K. Stuart Goldberg, Terry Royer, Teresa Troyer.*

## Political Roundtable

This past winter the Political Science Department hosted a roundtable where a panel of distinguished Ohio journalists debated and answered audience questions in regards to the 2008 presidential candidates.

Visiting Professor of Political Science Paul Leonard created and moderated the event. Leonard asked the roundtable participants tough questions such as "Is America ready for a black president?" Steve Avakian, political consultant and former press secretary for Senator John Glenn answered him, "That's the \$64,000 question. I don't think America is past the race issue."

Aside from Avakian, the panel was comprised of four other Ohio journalists: Mark Allan, news anchor for WDTN; Ellen Belcher, editorial page editor for the *Dayton Daily News*; Bill Hershey, Columbus bureau chief for the *Dayton Daily News*; and Mike Scinto, talk radio host for WDAO.

Leonard said this is the first attempt at a political roundtable event at WSU in a long time. He said he liked the overall result and turnout. There were 85 attendees, and audience members included Dr. Donna Schlagheck, chair of the Department of Political Science, and WSU President Dr. David Hopkins.

"I tried to get different points of view on the panel," said Leonard. "The *Dayton Daily News* is known as a left-leaning newspaper and Scinto from WDAO is very conservative." He said the positions of the print journalists compared to the TV anchor and the radio journalist were very different.

Leonard's final question to the panel was, "Who is America's next president?" Every panel member but one responded: "Barack Obama."

# Events

## ***CoLA Awards Ceremony***

Congratulations to the following students and faculty who were honored at the Liberal Arts Awards Ceremony on Friday, June 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the CAC Concert Hall:

### Outstanding Seniors

Iotha Roberts, African and African American Studies  
G. Logan Miller, Anthropology  
Frank Travers, Art and Art History  
Shawn Daniels, Classics  
James Tobe, Communication  
Beau Sakshaug, Criminal Justice  
Michael Ward, English  
Brett Beach, English ILA  
Michelle Rigg, Geography  
Katharine Luebcke, History  
Tina Konjic, International Studies  
Abigail Etter, Liberal Studies  
Melissa Doran, Modern Languages  
Kristen Jayne, Music  
Jami Gautney, Philosophy  
Brad Turner, Political Science  
Katharine Luebcke, Religion  
Samantha Howell, Social Work  
Ashley Thoreen, Sociology  
Alison Reny, Theatre  
Patricia Abu-Ghosh, Urban Affairs  
Morgan Patten, Women's Studies

### Outstanding Graduate Students

Kerri Hauman, English Composition and Rhetoric  
Sarah Coates Peters, English Literature  
Christine Sitko, English TESOL  
Rachel DeHart, History  
Tiffany Harbour, Humanities  
Kathleen Davis, International/Comparative Politics  
Shamera Totty, Master of Public Administration  
Mark Jauss, Music  
Karen Sisk, Women's Studies

### Liberal Arts Leadership Scholarships

Brian Ely, Criminal Justice  
Angela King, Communication  
Tatiana Lurie, International Studies  
Paige Piper, French  
Nathan Turner, Political Science  
Emily Yantis, Women's Studies

### Outstanding Teaching Award

Dr. Annette Oxindine, English  
Jeannette Horwitz, English

### Outstanding Advisor Award

Dr. Kirsten Halling, Modern Languages  
*(First Award Recipient)*

## **Reception for Chairs and Retiring Faculty Members**

The college held a reception on Tuesday, May 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the Millett Hall Atrium to honor three CoLA department chairs, Dr. James Sayer (Communication) who is now Dean of the Lake Campus; Dr. David Garrison (Modern Languages) and Dr. Edward Haas (History), both of whom are returning to full-time teaching. In addition three faculty members who are retiring this year, Dr. Jeanne Ballantine, Professor of Sociology; Ronald Geibert, Professor of Art and Art History; and Dr. Mark Sirkin, Associate Professor of Political Science, were also recognized for their service to the college and university.



*Retiring Art and Art History Professor Ronald Geibert and colleague Art and Art History Associate Professor Kim Vito.*

*Dr. David Garrison, Chair of the Modern Languages Department and Dr. Damaris Serrano, Associate Professor of Spanish.*



*Dr. James Sayer, Chair of the Communication Department talking with Dr. Henry Limouze, Chair of the English Department.*



*Dr. Stuart McDowell, Chair of the Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures Department talking with retiring Political Science Associate Professor Dr. Mark Sirkin.*



**Thank you to the students in Dr. Ann Biswas' COM 256 Basic Media Writing class who collaborated on the writing of stories for 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) \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to support the  
College of Liberal Arts!**

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for:

- Greatest need in Liberal Arts
- Scholarships in Liberal Arts
- Specific Department: \_\_\_\_\_

You can also give online at:

<https://www.wright.edu/php-bin/foundation/online.html>

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

Send Us Your News!

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**College of Liberal Arts  
163 Millett Hall  
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