



SPRING 2019

### A message from the dean

It happens pretty often. I walk into the office in the morning, go into someone's office, and say "I have an idea. What if we...." Sometimes it is a pre-coffee brainstorm, and I am swiftly convinced that it was an idea, all right, but not a terribly good one. Everyone in the college does it, "I have an idea." Then we talk it over in the office, because even ideas that are good to start with get better through the rough and tumble of conversation. We take ideas to department chairs, the College of Liberal Arts Senate, the Dean's Student Advisory Board, the Dean's Leadership Board community members, staff, and anyone we can corner in the hall. The idea gets further refined, turns into a plan, and is implemented. "I have an idea" is heard quite often around here.



And there's a reason for that. Colleges of Liberal Arts are known to be, and meant to be, places where creative thinking can flourish. We are not content with the way things have always been done: we are natural-born intellectual tinkerers. We are optimists, too: we Liberal Arts types always think we can make things better with a little thought. We are usually right. This relish for creative thinking is something we pass along to our students, and it's a core skill that will help them every day of their lives.

Ideas that passed the test of college dialog include two new credentials, certificates in Career Advancement Skills I and II. These are designed to demonstrate attainment of knowledge and skills that meet the needs of the workforce as articulated by business executives and hiring managers. These skills include the ability to communicate clearly in oral and in written form, critical thinking, multicultural competency, and ethical judgment. The credentials can be granted to existing WSU students who have taken the relevant courses, but they can also provide a path for those already in the workforce who may need some help before being ready to move up the ladder. We plan a public launch of these certificates in the Fall, and will work closely with area employers to promote them.

The people who generate great ideas are our faculty, staff and students. You can read about their accomplishments below. I am so very proud to be able to work with such an extraordinary group of individuals: creative thinkers all!

Enjoy your summer.



Linda Caron  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

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### **Mentoring Magic**

When recent social work graduate Jacqueline Hutchison got matched up with a mentor last year, she never dreamed it would lead to a job at St. Vincent de Paul in a key administrative position.

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### **QUICK LINKS**

[Political Science Alumna  
Volunteers at 9/11 Tribute  
Museum](#)

[Internship Expo Draws  
Crowd](#)

[Overcoming the  
Impossible](#)



### Homecoming for Motion Pictures Alumna

Academy Award-winning Wright State alumna Hannah Beachler paid a surprise visit to campus, toting her shiny gold Oscar for her production design work on *Black Panther* and thrilling a class of motion pictures students.

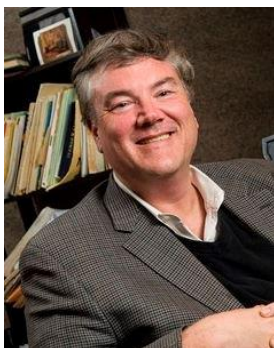
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### World Class

A Fulbright in Taiwan will be the latest of many international education experiences for recent Wright State graduate Emma Peterson.

[Read more >>](#)



### Famous Feud

It's like hitting a home run in your first Major league at-bat. Wright State composer and piano instructor Steven Aldredge's first opera, *The Hatfield-McCoy Triptychs*, was one of five performed by the Fort Worth Opera in a prestigious showcase event.

[Read more >>](#)

[Art Alumna Voted Top Local Photographer](#)

[Battling Hunger Pains](#)

[Water Power](#)

[Faculty Awards of Excellence](#)

[Model UN Team Continues Tradition of Excellence](#)

[Fine Arts Alumna Making Name for Herself with Artist Podcasts](#)

[Music Student Brings the Carillon to Life](#)

[Prestigious National Drum Corps Selects Wright State Music Student](#)

[Alumni Land Full-Time Jobs at Dayton Ballet, Dayton Philharmonic](#)

## Newsletter Archive

[Fall 2018](#)

[Spring 2018](#)

[View all COLA Newsletters](#)

**COLA Outstanding Seniors**



### Front Street Partners with Wright State Arts Programs

The Front Street Studio Gallery, a complex of historic industrial buildings, is fast becoming a volcanic presence in the Dayton arts scene and a great partner with Wright State. Wright State alumni have their own official gallery, and at least a half dozen Wright State graduates rent space for their own personal studios. Front Street artists also generously support Wright State's arts students through gifts of art to the **ARTSGALA** silent auction.

[Read more >>](#)



**Sterling Rutledge**  
African & African American  
Studies



**Frances Smith**  
Art & Art History



### Communication in the Peace Corps

Communication studies alumna Calandria Tate serves as a volunteer in the Peace Corps in Senegal where she works on helping prevent the spread of malaria, as well as on nutrition, sanitation, and preventing common illnesses.

[Read more >>](#)



**Holly-Kristina Averette**  
Communication

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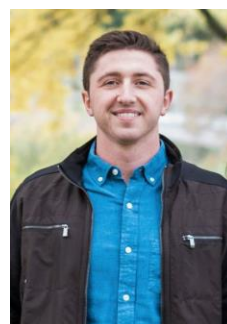




### **Motion Pictures Alumnus Thrives as Producer for World Wrestling Entertainment**

Scott Marshall has parlayed a bachelor's degree in motion pictures from Wright State into careers in video production, communications for school districts and producing live, scripted matches for WWE at arenas around the country and the world.

[Read more >>](#)



**Michael Sensenbaugh**  
Crime & Justice Studies



### **Ahead of Her Time**

If there was ever a role model for American women, it's Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter. Dancer, pilot, inventor, philanthropist, she has done it all, including establishing the Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter Dance Scholarship at Wright State.

[Read more >>](#)



**Jonathan Thomas**  
English Language & Literatures



### **Service in El Salvador**

For the past several months, Megan McKarns, international studies and Spanish student, has lived in El Salvador, working with families and performing mission work. McKarns



**Alix Holmes**  
History

is concentrating on diplomacy and peace studies. She studies Spanish and takes Bible classes and mission classes about coping with culture shock and intercultural studies. She also visits the neighborhood of Cuscatancingo, where she works with families.

[Read more >>](#)



### Pattern Passion

Art alumnus Reza Masoudi and his wife, Bahar, saw their dress-making business Bahar & Reza take off after the exiled empress of Iran wore one of their creations. They have stayed connected to Wright State, most recently by donating a custom-made dress to the **ARTSGALA** silent auction.

[Read more >>](#)



### Grad student Ronnie Moreland named among Dayton's Top 10 African American Men of the Year

Moreland, who is pursuing his degree in public administration, was named to the list by Parity Inc., a nonprofit group that seeks greater participation and inclusion of African Americans in the development of policies.

[Read more >>](#)



**Salha El-shwehdi**  
International Studies



**Yahziyl Palmer**  
Liberal Studies



**Antonia Stonerock**  
Modern Languages



## New Agents of Change Community-engagement Course Makes a Splash with Dayton City Commission

Students in a new Agents of Change course made a formal presentation to the Dayton City Commission on their projects, held a working session with several commissioners, and even spearheaded the crafting of a mayoral proclamation. This course is part of an initiative designed by the College of Liberal Arts to empower students to become more active citizens, create partnerships with community groups, and promote positive change.

[Read more >>](#)



## World Power

Vaughn Shannon, associate professor of political science, was elected to a two-year term as president of the Dayton Council on World Affairs.

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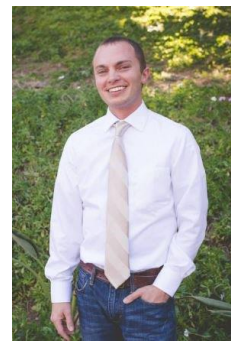


## Opening the Doors of Opportunity

Retired Wright State professor Pierre Horn establishes a scholarship for students studying French. Horn hopes his scholarship will encourage students to study French and travel to France or to Quebec in



**Curtis Magee**  
Music



**James Davis**  
Geography



**Lauren Reder**  
Religion



Canada to improve their speaking ability.

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**The Wall**

Students in a Communicating Through Chronic Illness and End of Life course set up “The Wall” during spring semester to inspire others to think about what they want to do before they die. “The Wall” invites people to contemplate death and reflect on their lives. It is designed to help people think about the relationship between the end of their lives and how they might they want to live their lives in a more thoughtful and responsible way.

[Read more >>](#)



### **Theatre Studies Recent Graduate Finds Her Voice**

In the past two years, Nerissa Jheanelle has written a play and had it produced as a staged reading; conceived a dance piece choreographed by a close friend and turned into a video; created a movie script; and written the book and lyrics for a new musical that was performed and will be turned into a movie.

[Read more >>](#)



**Elizabeth Art**  
Social Work



**Diamond Johnson**  
Sociology & Anthropology

Double click to edit



**Katie Lynn Sinicki**  
Theatre, Dance, & Motion  
Pictures

**COLA Outstanding Graduate  
Students**





## Empowering Student Success

The Wright State University Foundation has received a \$50,000 Power Grant from the Dayton Power and Light Company Foundation to support **ARTSGALA**, programming in the Creative Arts Center, and engineering workforce development.

[Read more >>](#)



**Beth Nichols**  
Applied Behavioral  
Sciences



## Wright State Students Reflect on Civil Rights Pilgrimage

The Civil Rights Pilgrimage has become an annual alternative to spring break at Wright State, open to all students. This year, a third of the students participated as part of a class taught by Tracy D. Snipe, professor of political science. The pilgrimage included visits of historical sites associated with the civil rights movement, such as landmarks in Montgomery, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; and New Orleans.

[Read more >>](#)



**Dylan Colvin**  
English Languages &  
Literatures



**Amy Brickey**  
Public History



### Social Work Alumna Returns to Campus to Advocate for Student Survivors

Corrie Pleska, a licensed social worker and Wright State graduate, provides support and resources to student survivors of power-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

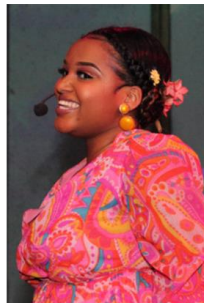
[Read more >>](#)



**Sarah Elizabeth Bostic-Kelley**  
Humanities



**Rahimullah Akrami**  
International &  
Comparative Politics



### **ARTSGALA**

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

On Saturday, April 13, 2019, we celebrated our 20th annual **ARTSGALA**. Hundreds of guests filled the Creative Arts Center to enjoy an evening of entertainment by our incredible students in the fine and performing arts. To date this event has raised close to \$3 million to help our arts students succeed. Don't miss this [highlights article and video](#) to get a feel for the magic of the evening.

**Save the date for next year: March 28, 2020.**



**Stephen Monath**  
Music

### **Supporting the College**

Take a moment to think about your ties to the College of Liberal Arts. Perhaps you are one of our alumni and can remember well what the campus looked like when you were a student and which COLA faculty or staff made the greatest impact on you. You might serve on an advisory board and help provide feedback on the direction our programs and college are headed. Maybe you are a donor



who passionately supports scholarships for students in need.

Perhaps you are an avid patron of our fine and performing arts programs who has attended art exhibitions, dance performances, main stage performances in music or theatre, or our signature arts fundraiser, **ARTSGALA**. You might have hired COLA students as interns or COLA graduates as employees. You could be a faculty, staff, retiree, or current or prospective student of our college. You might be part of our professional mentoring program. Or maybe you are passionate about the liberal arts and about what we do in COLA and are looking for ways to get more involved.

Whatever your connection is, we thank you for your interest in the College of Liberal Arts, and we encourage you to remain involved or get more engaged in the important work we do on behalf of our students. As you reflect on your ties to COLA, if you would like to make a gift in support of student scholarships, academic research projects, special programs, and other needs, please visit this [website](#) to learn more.

**Chelsie Spoor**  
Public Administration



**Natasha Ames**  
Social Work

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