



COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS

Newsletter

A Message from the Dean

I've been thinking a lot about COLA's central role in preparing students for the workforce.

According to *Fulfilling the American Dream*, a 2018 survey of over 1000 business executives and hiring managers commissioned by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, employers overwhelmingly endorse broad learning and cross-cutting skills as the best preparation for long-term career success. The most important skills include oral communication, critical thinking, ethical judgment, working effectively in teams, written communication, and the real-world application of skills and knowledge. The top 3 skills wanted by employers are the ability to communicate orally, critical thinking/analytic reasoning, and ethical judgment and decision-making.

That's where the liberal arts come in. Colleges of liberal arts, like Wright State's, are full of dedicated professors who understand from the inside what it means to both master a field and master an approach to a working life that includes engaging with old problems and new knowledge, finding solutions, and clearly communicating the path forward. These skills are essential no matter whether you work in manufacturing or as a nurse, in a business or as an entrepreneur, in a lab or in a military unit, in a classroom or in an office. COLA needs to celebrate our relevance to the workplace of today and tomorrow, and spread the word that, although one's job may change more than once over a lifetime, liberal arts core skills will always be desired. We are also committed to offering courses and credentials to prove the acquisition of those skills for people who may not want to enter a degree program right now, but want to advance in their workplace of choice.

On other fronts, we are working hard to make certain that every student not only masters essential skills, but has an opportunity to test those skills in a real world experience before graduating. Our internship program continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and we are



working on other avenues for experiential learning. Our professional mentoring program has doubled in size since its launch last spring. And we continue to be inspired by the successes and imagination of our faculty, staff, students and alumni, some of which you can read about in this newsletter. Happy Fall!



Linda Caron
Dean, College of Liberal Arts



Paola Bellini with Mrs. Laurene Buckley, mother of the late Philosophy Professor Erik Banks

Donor Appreciation Reception

On October 10 the college hosted our annual COLA Donor Appreciation Reception. Nearly 200 donors and scholarship recipients gathered in our beautiful Creative Arts Center to celebrate the generosity of our patrons and wonderful accomplishments of our students. Guests were entertained by percussion music by our students as well as songs from *Crazy for You*.

Our students benefit tremendously from the gifts of many generous people who invest in their futures, and it was magical to see many students and donors meet each other for the very first time. It was especially

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QUICK LINKS

[Alumni Share Their Insights at MPA, Urban Affairs, and Geography Careers Event](#)

[Sociology Professor Studies Impact of Recession on African American Stylists](#)

[Foreign Service Not So Foreign to Political Science Alumnus](#)

[Mass Communication Student Sets Sights on](#)

touching to hear the remarks by [Paola Bellini](#), a senior philosophy major who shared her personal story about the impact the Erik C. Banks Scholarship has made on her life.



Pictured left to right: Jasmine (Easler) Schmenk, President Cheryl B. Schrader, Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter, Jennifer McDermott, and Hannah Beachler

Alumni Achievement Awards

At last week's Alumni Association Achievement Awards Dinner, COLA was proud to celebrate four COLA awardees:

- **Hannah Beachler**, '05 motion pictures, Alumna of the Year Award
- **Jasmine (Easler) Schmenk**, '16 acting, Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award
- **Jennifer McDermott**, '09 social work, Graduate of the Last Decade Award
- **Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter**, friend and patron of Wright State's arts programs, Honorary Alumna Award

[Becoming Air Force Pilot](#)

[Liberal Studies Alumnus Wears Multiple Hats at ESPN WING-AM](#)

[Late Hours Helped Art Student Develop Painting Skills](#)

[Camp A Cappella Brings Music to Campus](#)

[Shakespeare Production Featured Wright State Talent](#)

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COLA FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS



Laura Luehrmann
COLA Outstanding Faculty Award



Learning Landscape

Communication studies major Amanda Harris presents New Media Incubator research at national conference.

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Marlese Durr
COLA Outstanding
Research Award



Checking in with Tom Hanks

Stuart McDowell, artistic director of theatre, dance, and motion pictures, paid a visit to Tom Hanks, who continues to enjoy his memories of his campus visit in 2016 and his strong relationship with the university.

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Kirsten Halling
COLA Outstanding
Teaching Award and the
Robert J. Kegerreis
Distinguished Professor of
Teaching Award



Wright State Flute Players Record New Composition

A major woodwind music publisher will sell a new composition premiered by students in Wright State's Flute Studio.

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Stuart McDowell

COLA Outstanding Professional Service Award and the Frederick A. White Distinguished Professor of Professional Service Award



Riveting Affair

2003 anthropology alumus Casey Simmons played key role in restoring the historic Memphis Belle Flying Fortress.

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Lee Hannah

COLA Outstanding Early Career Achievement Award and the Wright State Early Career Achievement Award



Friend in Need

Social work alumus Jacob Huff honored music student Tyler Ohlemacher with a donation to the Percussion Studio.

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Fit for Florence

Caroline Hillard, associate professor of art and art history, spends a year in Harvard Italy, researching the Etruscan influence on the Renaissance.

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Thomas Fenton
COLA Outstanding Community Engagement Award and the Wright State Community Engagement Award



History Alumna, Adjunct Faculty Member Helps Veterans Share Their Wartime Memories

Bridget Federspiel works with high school students and Wright State student veterans to interview U.S. veterans for the Library of Congress.

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Sarah McGinley
COLA Outstanding Lecturer Award



Field Operations

Archaeology students find traces of town that was relocated following Great Dayton Flood of 1913.

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Tomoko Tsuzuki-Deboer
COLA Outstanding Adjunct Award



Stagecraft

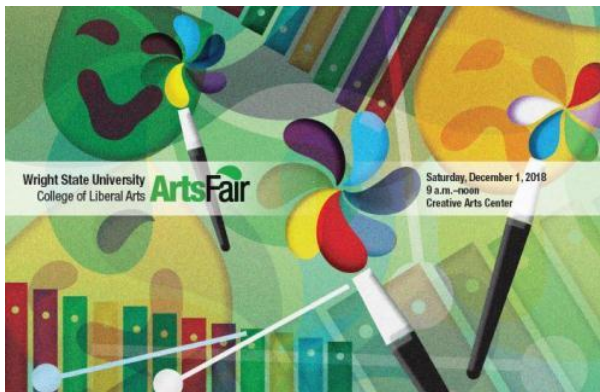
Theatre alumnus Cameron Holsinger and former musical theatre student King David Jones have major roles in *Hamilton*.



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Susan Schultheis
COLA Outstanding Staff Award



ArtsFair
Saturday, December 1, 2018
9:00 a.m. - noon, Creative Arts Center
www.wright.edu/artsfair

Join us for Wright State's ArtsFair, a fun and educational experience for art lovers of all ages! Sponsored by Morris Furniture Company and hosted by the College of Liberal Arts, ArtsFair offers Wright State faculty, staff, students, retirees, graduates, and area families the chance to tap into their creative energy with our arts students and faculty. Attendees will enjoy a light breakfast plus a full morning of arts entertainment, including hands-on, interactive learning experiences in a variety of fine and performing arts.



ARTSGALA
Saturday, April 13, 2019
6:00 p.m. - midnight, Creative Arts Center
www.wright.edu/artsgala

Don't miss the 20th **ARTSGALA**, a premier arts event in Dayton and the highlight of Wright State's arts season! Join the more than 800 patrons who attend this event each year for top-notch entertainment by Wright State's talented fine and performing arts students, along with fine dining and a magnificent silent auction. All net proceeds support much-needed arts scholarships to help our students succeed.



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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 or contact Sara Woodhull, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts, at 937-775-4921 or sara.woodhull@wright.edu.

If you would like to consider additional ways in which your engagement can positively impact the college today and into the future, please contact Jennie Buckwalter, Assistant Dean for the College of Liberal Arts, at 937-775-2575 or jennifer.buckwalter@wright.edu.

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