



COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS

# Newsletter

Fall 2020

## A message from the dean

I was sitting in my Wright State office on a Friday, looking out at the Quad. A deer wandered by. No students, just wildlife. Things are strange.

We do have students on campus, of course. Many of our classes in the Creative Arts Center are conducted in a socially distanced, face-to-face format. It's hard to teach dance, or flute, or painting, via WebEx. Nonetheless, we have also provided remote options for most of those courses, so if students or faculty are not comfortable with in-person activities they can still make progress. Courses in other disciplines are mostly fully remote, some of them with the whole class meeting online together, and others with students able to access course material and work on their own schedule. Our faculty are doing heroic jobs of making things as "normal" as possible for students in these anything-but-normal times.



And oh, our students. The university initiated a second round of our Raider Strong outreach program. Volunteers called all of our thousands of students, just to check in with them, see how they were doing, and offer help if needed. As I called the students on my list, I found them universally positive, proud of the progress they were making toward their degrees, and working hard. There was not a whiner in the bunch. A few admitted they were experiencing challenges with their coursework but simply said it was their own fault and they just needed to buckle down and get to work. I was so proud of them! No wonder our students are known for their can-do attitude and aptitude for hard work. We hear that employers are happy to hire our graduates for exactly these reasons.

It looks as though we are facing at least another semester of remote teaching and learning. But we'll make it work.

Stay safe.

*Henda Caron*



### Wright State, WYSO collaborate on live Halloween broadcast of 'War of the Worlds'

Wright State University performing arts students will present an updated broadcast of Orson Welles' famous radio drama "The War of the Worlds" on Halloween night on WYSO Public Radio.

"The War of the Worlds" will be performed live on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m. on 91.3 FM and WYSO.org. The broadcast will not be available on-demand so listeners must tune in to hear it live.

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[Liberal Arts Degrees Prepared Them Well for the Future](#)



**Ashley Hall and Jennifer Ware win Regional Emmy award for PBS children's science show**

Jennifer Ware and Ashley Hall, co-directors of Wright State University's New Media Incubator, received a Regional Emmy Award® from the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

They received the honor in the Children/Youth/Teens category for producing the ThinkTV children's science show "Speakers and Beakers."

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[In the Bag](#)

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**COLA Outstanding Faculty and Staff**



**Liam Anderson**  
COLA Outstanding Faculty Award



**Wright State student Austin Lucous featured on a national presidential debate panel of voters on PBS**

From the kitchen table in his West Milton home, Wright State University political science major Austin Lucous has shared his views of the presidential debates with a national television audience.

[Read more >>](#)



**Jen Ware**  
COLA Outstanding Research Award





### **Symphony of Sound**

The Wright State University Chamber String Orchestra performed publicly for the first time this academic year during a special performance on Oct. 6 in the Student Union Atrium.

The open space of the Student Union Atrium allowed performers and audience members to be physically distanced while enjoying the orchestra's performance.

"We have not performed in eight months," said Jackson Leung, professor of music. "To be able to make music together is one of the most important things that musicians do."

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**Jessica Penwell Barnett**

COLA Outstanding Teaching Award



**Susan Carrafiello**

COLA Outstanding Professional Service Award



**Biology and English students learn environmental storytelling in a new Eco-Narratives course**



**Josh McCabe**

COLA Outstanding Early Career Achievement Award

A novel new course that mixes biology and English majors to teach them storytelling about extinctions, mutations, invasions and other environmental phenomena is unfolding at Wright State University.

Hope Jennings, professor of English language and literatures, and Thomas Rooney, professor of biological sciences, have joined forces to teach a course called Eco-Narratives.

[Read more >>](#)



**Wright State Alumna and Immigration Politics Expert Caress Schenk Teaches at a University in Kazakhstan**

"We did interviews with people from different sides of the war in the 1990s and I read everything I could get my hands on," Schenk said. "I just could not wrap my head around the tragedy of war and decided that I needed to study politics to try and understand what drives people to act so despicably."

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**Tony-winning Wright State grad a double nominee in 2020 for Tony Awards**



**Irena Joseph**

COLA Outstanding  
Community Engagement  
Award



**Aaron Wolpert**

COLA Outstanding  
Lecturer/Instructor Award



**Erin Robbins**

COLA Outstanding Adjunct  
Award

It's been a challenging year for Broadway, but the nominations for the 74th annual Tony Awards — announced Oct. 15 and recognizing the shortened 2019-2020 season — is cause for celebration.

Tony Award-winning 2012 Wright State University musical theater graduate Joey Monda of Sing Out, Louise! Productions is a double nominee for producing Best Play contenders "The Inheritance" (11 nominations) and "Slave Play" (12 nominations, the most ever for a play).

[Read more >>](#)



**Becca Webb**  
COLA Outstanding Staff  
Award



**COLLEGE OF  
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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 Colleen Lampton-Brill, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts, at 937-775-4921 or [colleen.lampton@wright.edu](mailto:colleen.lampton@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 Nick Warrington, Director of Events and Community Engagement for the College of Liberal Arts, at 937-775-2575 or [nick.warrington@wright.edu](mailto:nick.warrington@wright.edu).

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