

Newsletter

Fall 2021

I recently had occasion to update a group of generous donors about COLA.

I told them about our alumni, who continue to do amazing things, including teaching in France, Kazakhstan, China, Indonesia, Turkey, Honduras, Columbia and Slovakia; helping youth from the Montgomery County Juvenile justice program create murals; making films for Netflix; winning Tonys, Oscars, and Emmys; creating a nonprofit that helps disadvantaged women start companies; serving as lead brewer at Carillon Brewing Company; designing exhibits at the National AfroAmerican Museum; volunteering at vaccination clinics; managing air force contracts; launching a community theatre company for young people of color; starting successful businesses; attending graduate school in various fields; and of course, rising to the top of their chosen professions.



I reminded them that COLA continues to focus on highlighting the importance of the liberal arts as providers of essential workplace skills. Employers list specific skills as crucial to the workforce of tomorrow and most likely to lead to advancement: written and verbal communication, critical thinking and problem solving, the ability to work in teams, do research and understand data, and an appreciation of our multicultural world. That is what we do in this college.

I mentioned that COVID has given existing educational practices a good shakeup. We can either resist change, or we can see opportunity.

I am very proud to say that in COLA we understand that the future of higher education across the country and in the region is for interdisciplinary programs, experiential learning and stackable credentials. When you unpack all that higher education lingo, you get flexible programs that recognize that all students don't go to school full time for 4 years straight, and may want stepping stones to a degree made up of a series of credentials. We can do that. Students may have more than one interest and don't want to be stuck in a single academic lane. We can provide flexibility to study some of this and some of that and still arrive at the finish line. They want real world experience along with their degree, and evidence to offer to employers that they're ready for the workforce. We excel at that.

In fact, the whole college is involved in robust discussions about how we must change to lead higher education in the liberal arts in a way that is cost effective, takes advantage of existing resources, provides in-demand skills, and is energizing. By this time next year I'm hoping we will be organized into fewer units that bring together complimentary skills in new ways to serve our students. It's demanding and exciting work. Stay tuned.

Happy Thanksgiving!

henda



Where are they now? Model U.N. Alumni Updates.

We tracked down former members of one of Wright State's most prestigious and award-winning legacies, the [Model UN program](#), to reflect on their experience and how it has shaped who they are today.

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QUICK LINKS

[Dr. Carol Loranger
appointed Interim Vice
Provost for Faculty Affairs](#)

[Wright State Bands return
to Schuster Hall](#)



Solo exhibition by photographer Kris Graves on display at Stein Galleries

The [Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries](#) at Wright State University hosts a solo exhibition by photographer Kris Graves examining Black representation in art and systemic racism.

[Read more >>](#)



Wright State Communications and African & African American Studies alumna directs NPO helping women start companies

Pamela Cone began Avitra-Dayton, a nonprofit organization that supports women in business, from her basement during the COVID-19 pandemic and her company has now served more than 200 entrepreneurs, ranging from those who sell women's apparel online and provide staffing to those offering music therapy to youths.

[Read more >>](#)

[Conversations with Angela Davis](#)

[Promo Producers](#)

[Brew Coup](#)

[Joey Monda wins second Tony](#)

[Presidential Protection](#)

[Cannon Carpenter](#)

[Back on the Stage](#)

[Dr. Damaris Serrano receives Ricardo Miró National Award](#)

[Stage Direction](#)

[Dr. Awad Halabi wins International Education Award](#)

[Will Power](#)

[Language Modification](#)

[Launching a Community Theatre Company](#)

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COLA Outstanding Faculty and Staff



A fabulous evening

Wright State University [Art & Art History](#), [Music](#), and [Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures](#) departments joined together onstage for *Wright State Arts Live! A Celebration of Fine and Performing Arts* on Sept. 16, at the Levitt Pavilion Dayton.

Wright State Arts Live was sponsored by [ArtsGala](#), which takes place **April 9, 2022**, in the Creative Arts Center.

[Read more >>](#)



Karen Lahm
COLA Outstanding Faculty
Award



Drew Swanson
COLA Outstanding
Research Award



Amelia Hubbard
COLA Outstanding
Teaching Award



Book talk by historian Paul Lockhart brings C-SPAN to Wright State

A talk by Paul Lockhart, Ph.D., Wright State University professor of [history](#), about his new book, "Firepower: How Weapons Shaped Warfare," will enjoy some national attention, as it drew C-SPAN to campus to record the event.

[Read more >>](#)



Noeleen McIlvenna
COLA Outstanding
Professional Service Award



Wright State Theatre presents regional premiere of 'Circle Mirror Transformation'

Wright State Theatre will present the regional premiere of Annie Baker's Obie Award-winning play, "Circle Mirror Transformation" from Nov. 19–21 and Dec. 3–5 in the Herbst Theatre in the Creative Arts Center.

[Read more >>](#)



Sarah McGinley
COLA Outstanding Non-Tenure Eligible (NTE) Faculty Award



Jamie Cordes
COLA Outstanding Non-Tenure Eligible (NTE) Faculty Teaching Award



Cynthia Marshall Burns
COLA Outstanding Non-Tenure Eligible (NTE) Faculty Service Award

Health conscious

Two-time Wright State alumnus, Csongor Bajnoczki works part-time for the World Health Organization, is writing an MSc dissertation on circular economies at Central European University, and was recently published in an international global health journal on the lack of diversity in governmental task forces formed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Read more >>](#)

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.

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.

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.



Sally Struthers
COLA Outstanding Adjunct
Award



Carly Kimmins
*(represented by a photo of some
of her costume designs)*
COLA Outstanding Staff
Award

College of Liberal Arts

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