

# WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

# Newsletter

Spring 2018 Edition

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### A Message from the Dean

I've decided my new favorite words are "pilot program." Here in the College of Liberal Arts, we are fearless in testing out new ideas and initiatives. If they work out, we expand them. If they don't, we learn from our mistakes and try something else: fail forward, as the saying goes.

One great example of a successful pilot program is our mentoring project. During the spring semester 13 lucky CoLA students were paired with community volunteers for professional mentoring. When we debriefed the participants, it was clear that both groups benefitted from the interactions. This was a winning idea, and so we will continue and expand the mentoring program to serve more students in the fall.



Another pilot we will launch in the coming academic year is a bold multi-year curricular initiative we're calling Change the World. It's designed to turn students into activists, to give them the confidence and the tools to impact their world. We've targeted it to Wright State's typical student: often first-generation, modest, in need of empowerment, and hungry for a purpose beyond simply acquiring a job. The methodology involves three phases: Spark, Train and Act.

Change the World will be introduced by a team-taught, interdisciplinary course--the Spark. This course will be broken into units taught by faculty from diverse areas across the university, all relating to how the discipline changes the world.

The second part of the initiative will focus on giving students the tools they need to have an impact. This is the Train part of the Spark-Train-Act equation. The final component involves the action: the doing of something. This will be an experiential learning course culminating in a capstone project. A key part of the course will be an assessment of the impact of the undertaking.

We have identified a small pool of donor funding to try out a Train/Act course in the spring semester and begin to construct the Spark course. If the pilot is a success it can become a key feature of the university's strategic plan and a way to set Wright State apart from other

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institutions. And the best thing about it will be that our great students will pilot many world-changing ideas right here in the Dayton region, as Wright State follows in the footsteps of the Wright Brothers and continues to serve the community we call home.

*Linda Caron*

Linda Caron  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

## Professional Mentoring Program



CoLA launched a pilot professional mentoring program this spring with 13 mentor/mentee pairs. Juniors and seniors in the liberal arts were matched with local professionals who met with them and helped them focus on that transition from college to career. The program was a success, providing students with an opportunity to grow their community connections and gain insight into how to best prepare themselves to enter the workforce. Our goal is to serve more students beginning in the fall. If you are

interested in mentoring a student, you can learn more by visiting our [website](#). Applications are due June 8 and you do not need to be a WSU graduate to apply!

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## Foreign Service

Kathryn Chaney graduated from Wright State with an undergraduate degree in international studies and a master's degree in international and comparative politics. Now she helps prepare military personnel and other government employees for embassy assignments through her position with the Europe Desk at the Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies. The institute offers professional education, research, and support to advance U.S. foreign policy through security assistance and cooperation. Kathryn acknowledges that Wright State gave her many tremendous experiences and opportunities for growth that are currently benefiting her in her work. Said Kathryn, "it's really fulfilling doing research for "students" that helps them better understand something so that when they go over to the embassies they feel confident they know what's going on and can do their jobs."



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[Fall 2017](#)

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## Outstanding Graduates

### Undergraduate



Joshua Chenault  
[Communication](#)



Hanna Fortney  
[Crime & Justice Studies](#)



Samantha Wood  
[History](#)



## Michael Conlan Takes Command of Stein Art Galleries



Michael Conlan joined Wright State as the new coordinator of the Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries last November. Michael hails from a small town in North Dakota and fell in love with art at a young age. After graduating from high school, he studied at the Boston Architectural College and worked at an architectural firm, which allowed him the opportunity to design the exterior façade for a new museum at Rollins College in Florida. After some additional moves and more work in architecture, he enrolled at Portland State University to study sculpture. Michael later studied mixed media at the University of North

Dakota and gained hands-on experience running the school's art gallery and helping manage its collections. A job at the University of Dayton brought him to Ohio where he worked until coming to Wright State last fall. Michael views our collection as museum-quality work, with paintings and sketches by Renoir, Gauguin, and Chagall, photographs and prints by Andy Warhol, and so much more. Michael has lofty ambitions for the galleries. He wants to raise their profile in the community, bring in artists and their works, host multiple exhibitions, and build the collections.

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## Photo Finish

Megan Valle will remember her journey at Wright State through a unique lens. She took a photo nearly every day since August 27, 2015 when she arrived on campus to begin her sophomore year. She posted these photos all over her apartment bedroom and now has hundreds of photos to remind her of her college experience. Before graduating this spring with a degree in musical theatre, Megan performed in nearly a dozen productions, including *Peter Pan*, *Chicago*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and the recent spring musical, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She soon heads to Columbus to do a professional production of *Assassins* at the Short North Stage and hopes to one day pursue her theater career in New York City.



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## Mock Disaster Gives Students Lesson in Forensic Anthropology



**Constantine Nicholas Tolias**  
[International Studies](#)



**Michaela Kaiser**  
[Liberal Studies](#)



**Francisco Marques-Vuelta**  
[Modern Languages](#)



**Vicky Tong**  
[Music](#)





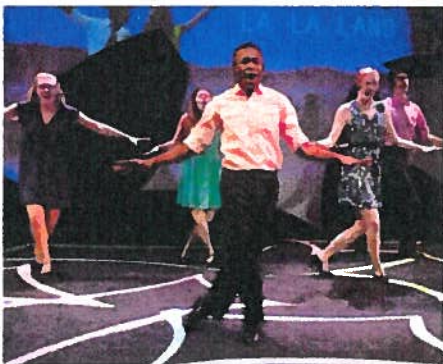
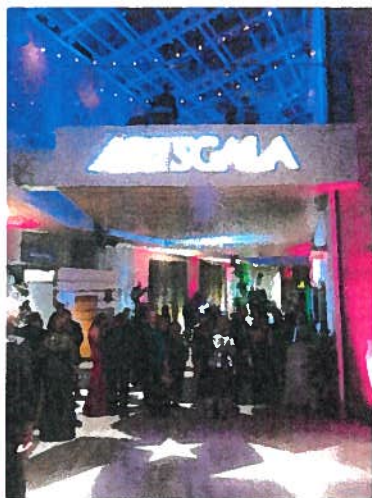


This spring students gained valuable insight into the world of forensic anthropology through a mock disaster exercise on the campus Quad. Led by assistant professor of anthropology Amelia Hubbard, students worked on two different "crime scenes," the discovery of a skeleton in a wooded area and a mass disaster site from a plane crash. Students searched the crime scenes, mapped and documented the remains, and then analyzed them in a lab setting. The course is designed to give students a theoretical understanding of

what forensic anthropology looks like, the specialists they would work with, and the challenges of this career. Jason Wilkes, an anthropology major from Kettering, thought the exercise was a great hands-on learning opportunity as he hopes to go into forensic anthropology or forensic archaeology after he graduates from Wright State.

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## ARTSGALA - A Magical Night of the Arts



Wright State's 19th annual **ARTSGALA** was a night to remember! Hundreds of guests were on hand to support and enjoy our talented fine and performing arts students during six hours

**Stephanie Patino-Garfias**  
[Political Science](#)



**Anna Helmig**  
[Religion, Philosophy & Classics](#)



**Megan Barrett**  
[Social Science Education](#)



**Maggie Beck**  
[Social Work](#)



**Alyssa Stark**  
[Sociology & Anthropology](#)



of non-stop arts entertainment in our state-of-the-art Creative Arts Center. This year's event raised approximately \$200,000 for critical scholarship support, and to date we have raised well over \$2.5 million in **ARTSGALA** Scholarships.

View our [photos](#) and highlight [video](#) of **ARTSGALA** 2018.

Join us on April 13, 2019 for another fabulous night of arts entertainment!

## Pronunciation Practice

When the LEAP (Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes) Intensive English Program began receiving numerous requests from community members and Wright State students and faculty for pronunciation instruction, Jeanette Horowitz, director of the program, and Pamela Everly, adjunct instructor, decided to explore the possibility of a class to meet that need. After nearly a year of development, LEAP offered the first session of Pronunciation Improvement last fall, with additional sessions in the spring. The goal of the class is to teach non-native English speakers difficult aspects of English, such as intonation, word and syllable stress, and rhythm. These practices not only enable the students to be more easily understood, but they also enable easier understanding of native English speakers. The course is running Summer A and will be offered again in the fall. More details about the fall course can be found [here](#).



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## Acting and Musical Theatre Alumna Performs in *The Phantom of the Opera*



When *The Phantom of the Opera* opened at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center in early April, a familiar face graced the stage. Kate Mueller, a native of Bellbrook and a 2015 graduate of our acting and musical theatre program, performed as one of just six dancers in the Corps de Ballet. According to Kate, Wright State was a really good fit for her, because her professors really stretched her to grow and become a well-rounded person. Some of her favorite WSU moments include performing at **ARTSGALA** and taking on the lead female roles in *The Miracle Worker* and *Oklahoma*. While Wright

State gave Kate the invaluable opportunity to hone her craft, she is also grateful for the scholarships she received as a student that allowed her to graduate debt free. "It's such a gift," said Kate. "For some people, scholarships may be the only thing that gets them to and through college. When you're in school, you really don't have that much time to work if you're trying to dedicate yourself to studying. It's so necessary for people to have those scholarships."

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**Brittany Williams**  
[Theatre, Dance & Motion Pictures](#)



**Jordan Kingsley**  
[Urban Affairs](#)

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**Kelly Bledsoe**  
[Art & Art History](#)

**Rachel Canter**  
[English](#)

**Janice Sikon**  
[Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies](#)

## Graduate



**Dan Schack**  
[English](#)

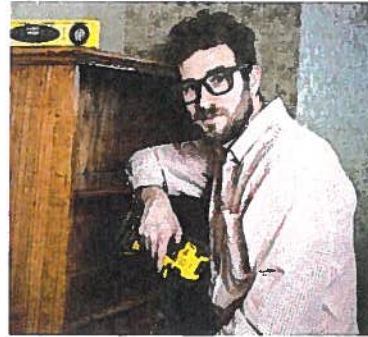


**Jennifer England**

## History

### Book Smart

Wright State is the latest site of a Little Free Library installed by the Third Story Literacy Project, an ambitious initiative designed to inspire a love of reading, create informed readers, and build community. The Library was installed in April in the fourth floor lobby of Millett and is designed to hold up to 50 books at a time. Anyone can take a book to read or leave one for someone else to find. The Third Story Literacy Project was created about a year ago by Wright State alumni Amber and Ryan Ireland. Ryan Ireland is a successful novelist who holds a bachelor's degree from Wright State in creative writing and poetry as well as a master's degree in composition rhetoric. "Any chance I have to give back to Wright State I will, especially when I see it directly serving the students and enhancing their time here at Wright State," he said. The library will be stocked and maintained by Alpha Upsilon Tau, Wright State's chapter of the international English honor society Sigma Tau Delta. According to Crystal Lake, associate professor of English and faculty adviser for Alpha Upsilon Tau, "the Little Free Library reflects the mission of Wright State to provide an education and access to knowledge for the whole community."



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### Arts Management Certificate Program Growing in Popularity



CoLA's Arts Management Certificate program has been growing in popularity since its establishment in the fall of 2016. Overseen by Hank Dahman, director of Collaborative Education, Leadership and Innovation in the Arts (CELIA), this undergraduate certificate program prepares arts lovers for careers in helping run theater companies, orchestras, art galleries, museums, and other organizations. The program gives students a strong foundation in the business and management principles that are essential in managing and expanding arts

organizations. Arts managers are hired by theaters, museums, orchestras, art galleries, film companies, arts councils, talent agencies, dance companies, publishers, recording companies, universities and governments. Students with a wide range of majors as well as community professionals have sought out this certificate credential, which includes 15 credit hours of electives such as accounting principles, web development, museum studies, and theater production. They also participate in a three credit-hour internship at organizations like The Dayton Performing Arts Alliance, Victoria Theatre, and The Human Race Theatre Company.

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**Kathryn Chaney**  
[International & Comparative Politics](#)



**Elizabeth Procopio**  
[Music](#)



**Devonn Wood**  
[Public Administration](#)



**Patrice Washington**  
[Social Work](#)

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**Aerial Nies**  
[Applied Behavioral Science](#)

**Katherine Peden**  
[Humanities](#)



## 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 brand-new 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](mailto: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](mailto:jennifer.buckwalter@wright.edu).



COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS

## Commencement Spring 2018



