

A message from the dean

Ahoy from the good ship COLA! We are still navigating turbulent waters, but our spirits are increasingly buoyed and we've been busy charting new technologies and teaching modes.

That about exhausts my stock of sailing metaphors. But the point is we have risen to the challenges delivered by COVID-19, as you would expect us to do. Students continued learning and graduating, teachers continued to do research and teaching, and we are all pining to get back to safe face-to-face contact, which we now value more than ever before. Things will be different, in this and every arena, but we will work together to adapt and flourish. We know you will do the same.



While many of us were stuck at home we took the opportunity to conduct an alumni survey. We got a good response rate: people must have been looking for things to do. We wanted to know what you thought about the value of your Wright State liberal arts education after you had some time to reflect and put your skills to use. I am thrilled to share the results with you. We asked you to rate your responses to the following statements:

- *My college of liberal arts education has enhanced my problem solving skills.* 92.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
- *My college of liberal arts education has enabled me to communicate effectively in multiple ways.* 94.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
- *My college of liberal arts education has taught me to do advanced research and to evaluate sources.* 89.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
- *My college of liberal arts education has given me an increased understanding of other places, people, and cultures.* 93.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
- *My college of liberal arts education has given me the tools to learn new things and respond to change.* 96.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
- *My college of liberal arts education has provided me with skills which support my career or personal goals.* 88.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

As a teacher I think in terms of grades, and you gave us an A. That's incredibly important to us, but we continue to strive to do even better.

You also provided us with valuable suggestions and comments. Many of you mentioned faculty or staff mentors who continue to inspire you long after you had left the classroom. There were comments from older graduates about a need for more guidance in identifying and securing meaningful employment, and we've addressed that in the creation of our Center for Liberal Arts Student Success (CLASS). We expect that future surveys will reflect the importance of the career guidance and internship placement that are part of the many activities taking place within CLASS. Some of you mentioned a need for more hands-on classes, and we are working on a rapid escalation of experiential learning.

I work with our COLA family every day, so I know the incredible power of their commitment to students. It has been even more evident than usual during the COVID crisis, as the entire college pivoted on a dime and created remote learning experiences to keep our students engaged and learning. I couldn't be more proud.

Have a great summer, and stay safe.

Henda Caron



Remote Control

Faculty, staff and students embrace remote delivery of classes.

Using video technology to create a "Student Hangout," playing "walkup music" prior to a class lecture, and creating a virtual saxophone choir.

These are among the online initiatives and creative things Wright State University faculty are doing to instruct students during the remote delivery of classes.

[Read more >>](#)



Wright State communication students land stories in the Dayton Daily News

The storytellers are all Wright State University students in the Advanced News Writing course taught by Ray Marciano, instructor of communication, who have had their stories published in the Dayton Daily News.

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Sound Check

Wright State alumna Jocelyn Robinson on the hunt for historic audio at nations historically black schools.

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Over 200 young musicians visit Wright State for band festival

Middle school and high school musicians sharpened their skills during the Honor Band Festival on Feb. 21 and 22 at Wright State University.

The festival included 220 participants from middle schools, high schools and band directors from around Ohio.

"It's great to hear kids wanting to make music," said Bill Jobert, senior lecturer in the Wright State School of Music, which hosted the festival.

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Location, Location, Location

Nathan Bubash, who is pursuing his master of public administration degree, uses geographical information systems (GIS) to make detailed maps chock full of data for transit companies.

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COLA Outstanding Seniors Spring 2020

Undergraduate



Michael Krieger
Art & Art History



Sarah Cavender
Communication



Kendra Thibaut
Crime & Justice Studies



Ryan Oates
English



Aiming High

Ever since she was young, Kathryn Fiske has been involved with numerous activities and responsibilities. When her parents first told her she could be whatever she wanted to be in this world, Fiske went straight to work on figuring out what that was going to be.

[Read more >>](#)



Megan O'Connor
History



Leslie Marsh
Liberal Studies



Abigail Lionberger
Modern Languages



Harrowing History

The seeds of the book "Miracle of Miracles" were planted in 2017 when Samuel Heider spoke at Wright State and Kremer overheard him say he had always wanted to write a book.

That led to Kremer volunteering her services to put his story on paper, conducting numerous interviews with Heider and two years of research.

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Students say scholarships generated by ArtsGala at Wright State crucial

"It is a night of elegance and a night of art," said Mark Antony Howard, a musical theatre major. "It's incredible."

Natalie Drury, a vocal performance major from Lebanon, Ohio, said it would have been very difficult for her to continue her college education without the scholarship.



Music
Anna Ruckman



Adam Al-Masi
Political Science

Receiving an ArtsGala scholarship gave, Denise Geier, a visual arts major, a boost of confidence knowing there is a community that supports and believes in her. And it will enable her to take a study abroad trip to Italy.

[Read more >>](#)



Homegrown Talent

Chris Riva, a 1994 Wright State University graduate, recently joined the anchor team at WXIX Fox 19 News in Cincinnati.

Riva is a 1994 graduate of Wright State's Mass Communication program at Wright State. "Wright State taught me how to communicate," he said. "Most importantly, they taught me how to listen."

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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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.



Lee Huntsberger
Religion, Philosophy &
Classics



Victoria Coleman
Social Work



Justina Fileccia
Sociology/Anthropology



Jacob Shade
Theatre, Dance, & Motion
Pictures



Petey Sanches
Women, Gender, &
Sexuality Studies

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.

Graduate



Megan Creviston
Applied Behavior Sciences



Rachel Canter
English



Anna Helmig
Public History



Jill Jackson
Humanities

Photo
Not
Available

Nicholas Higgins
International &
Comparative Politics



Emily Ka-Lei Au
Music



Uriah Anderson
Public Administration



Tylar O'Neal-White
Social Work

College of Liberal Arts

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