A message from the dean

Anon from the good ship COLAI. 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.** 92.9% 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.** 98.8% 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.

Tonda Caron
Sound Check
Wright State alumna Jocelyn Robinson on the hunt for historic audio at nation's historically black schools.

Read more >>

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.

Read more >>

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.

Read more >>

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 >>

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.

Read more >>

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.
Receiving an Arts@Gaia 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.

Lee Huntsberger
Religion, Philosophy & Classics

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.”

Victoria Coleman
Social Work

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
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, Arts@Gaia. 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.

Justina Filecchia
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