



COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS

# Newsletter

Winter 2020

## A message from the dean

I turned on the TV news the other night, and there was COLA faculty member Sean Wilson clarifying the impeachment process. It made me think about the many ways the college benefits our community.

We are a significant part of the intellectual capital of this region. We can—and do—provide expert analysis on the issues of the day, often serving as resources for local media outlets. Our political scientists help us make sense of Washington (insofar as that is possible), our experts in international affairs help us understand world events, our humanities professors help relate the past to the present. I will never forget listening to Professor Kirstin Halling being interviewed about the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris just hours after the tragic fire: it made a distant event feel real and personal.



The scholarship and service of our faculty and students also betters our community. In the fine and performing arts, scholarship takes the form of exhibitions and performances that contribute to Dayton's status as one of the best mid-sized cities for the arts in the country. For the social sciences, scholarship is research that helps us understand the world around us: think of a faculty member using geographic information systems to map food deserts or a sociologist building a database to analyze data on recidivism in local prisons. And our humanities faculty interact with multiple organizations: where would the Dayton Literary Peace Prize be without the many COLA volunteers who have been part of this esteemed program from the very beginning?

COLA students benefit the community, serving as interns in more than 200 businesses and agencies in the region, providing valuable labor to our partners and gaining invaluable experience for themselves. It's a critical step on the way to the good jobs our students secure after graduation.

One often-unsung piece of COLA's impact on the community is our many-faceted relationship with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. About 200 graduates from every department in the college work at the base. COLA provides interns for many units within Wright-Patt. Faculty serve as regular guest instructors at the Defense Security Cooperation Studies University, and our New Media Incubator is working with the Air Force to help strengthen its connection with industry. The Air Force Band of Flight has a close relationship with our School of Music.

Enjoy the prospect of spring, and please stop by if you're on campus!



Linda Caron  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts



**Skills that come with liberal arts degrees resonate with many employers**

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Recent surveys indicate that employers and hiring managers overwhelmingly endorse broad learning and cross-cutting skills as the best preparation for long-term career success. The most important skills, they say, are communication, critical thinking, teamwork, ethical judgment and real world application of knowledge.

“Those are exactly the liberal arts skills,” said Wayne Stark, director of workforce development for the Center for Liberal Arts Student Success (CLASS) at Wright State’s College of Liberal Arts. “All of those things coming together imbue liberal arts with a lot of power.”

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### **Upwardly Mobile**

There were times Hunter Whitt thought about giving up on college. Classes were hard. And having cerebral palsy presented extra challenges.

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[Paige Früchtnicht-Ponchak joins Wright State as Gallery Coordinator](#)

[Dramatic Performance](#)

[Non Majors Explore Dance as Art](#)

[Worldly Wisdom](#)

[Veterans Voices Project Expands](#)

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### Wright State alums, Daytonians play big role in acclaimed film getting Oscar buzz

One of the most critically films of the year is crawling with Raiders.

In his very first film Wright State Theatre Arts Professor Bruce Cromer plays an attorney in "Dark Waters."

Jonathan McNeal, the manager of The Neon movie theater downtown, said of the veteran of stage productions. "It is not just a couple of lines. It is a 'part' in the film."

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### Graduate Student Syeda Bahar Shines as a Campus and Community Leader

Syeda Bahar, a master of public administration student at Wright State, is a leader on campus, has interned with nonprofit community organizations and has participated in an international leadership conference.

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### COLA Dean's Student Advisory Board (DSAB)



**Leah Dryden**  
President

Political Science, English



**Ben Asebrook**  
Philosophy



**Samantha Baxter**  
English



### Drawing Interest

Non-art majors urged to consider taking Beginning Drawing to sharpen visual skills.

Glen Cebulash, Chair of the Art and Art History department, said drawing helps students see unconventional connections such as observing how a hand connects to the arm of a chair.

“And in walking into a crime scene or a place where there is evidence, you are making visual connections between things that don’t necessarily connect logically. You have to be able to see unconventional connections,” he said. “It’s hard for me to imagine that there is any discipline that wouldn’t benefit.”

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**Jack Bowser**  
History, Spanish



**Jackson Cornwell**  
Political Science,  
Philosophy, International  
Business



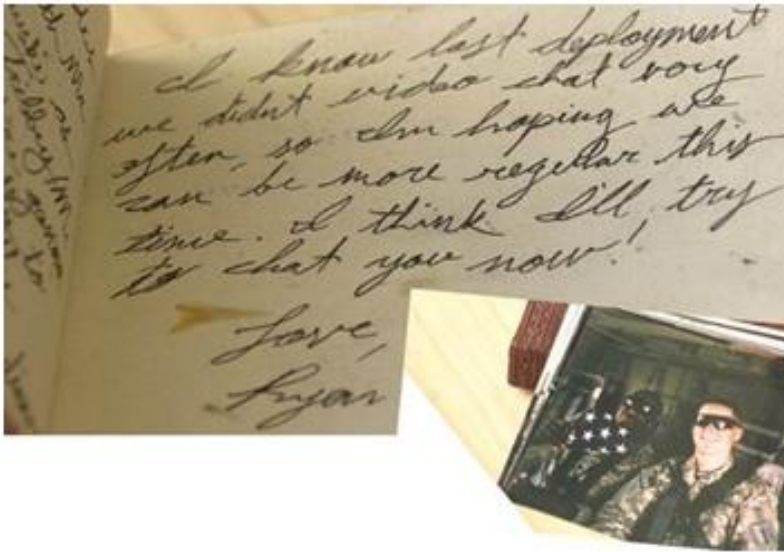
**MD Curtis**  
Spanish



### Tribal Matters

Aaron Osborn, a social science education major and president of the Native American Student Association at Wright State, is one-quarter Inuit, an indigenous people that inhabit the Arctic regions of Canada, Greenland and Alaska.

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### **Veterans Voices project expands with new documentary film**

Veterans Voices, the successful Wright State University oral history project and radio series, is now a full-length documentary film and a series of shorter online videos.



**John Davis**  
History, Religion



**Lee Huntsberger**

The documentary and webisodes, "Veterans Voices: Lives and Stories," feature Wright State student-veterans as well as veterans from the community and their families, exploring their time in the service and lives as civilians.

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International Studies,  
Classics



**B Lenz**  
Political Science



### Journée D'Immersion

Two hundred high school students visited Wright State University to practice their French skills, learn more about the university and have fun during the annual French Immersion Day.

High school students and their instructors from 12 Ohio schools participated in various activities, including welcoming ceremonies, ice-breaking games, a flag parade, French-inspired lunch and dancing.

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**Meera Patel**  
Political Science,  
Philosophy



**Milo Simpson**  
Geography



**Come celebrate ArtsGala on March 28, 2020**

Tickets are on sale now! [Get your tickets here!](#)

Don't miss this year's **ArtsGala** set for Saturday, March 28, 6:00 p.m. – midnight. Featuring over 400 students from the fine and performing arts this unique gala is like no other. Patrons of **ArtsGala** will enjoy 11 live performances, eight incredible dining experiences, a silent auction, cigar tent, and more!

Why support **ArtsGala**? Your ticket purchase, sponsorship, or auction donation will provide crucial scholarship support to help our students succeed. To date we've raised close to \$3 million for our fine and performing arts students.

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**Victoria Stricklen**  
Social Work



**John Stubblefield**  
English, Legal Studies,  
Business



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).

## College of Liberal Arts

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