A message from the dean

I was in yet another meeting the other day. Talk turned to the role of higher education in providing the strategic workforce needs of the region. The pandemic has highlighted the need for health care workers and scientists. We need engineers for Wright Patterson Air Force Base and the manufacturing sector. If businesses are to recover and new businesses be invented, we need people with entrepreneurial and business skills. But most of all, we need the liberal arts.

The strategic importance of liberal arts skills is well documented. When hiring managers and CEOs are interviewed, up to 90% of them say the most important skills are exactly what we teach in the liberal arts: critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, the ability to work in teams, cultural sensitivity, communication. Employers can train people in the unique aspects of the individual job but need employees to come to them with the ability to learn, ask questions, and communicate clearly. Survey after survey identified these same skills as vital. A quick internet search with the keywords “skills needed for jobs of the future” resulted in the same skills list.

It is a mistake to think that strategic workforce needs equates to training for specific fields. That’s important, but training is not education. Education gives individuals the ability to learn new things on their own, and the curiosity to want to keep learning. Education, and liberal arts education in particular, provokes the desire to keep up with the needs of the ever-changing workplace. I often quote the fact that 85% of the jobs in 2030 haven’t been invented yet. How will those jobs be filled? By liberal arts grads who know how to learn, how to say “what if...?” and how to help make the future happen. You can’t get any more strategic than that.

Linda Caron
Dean
College of Liberal Arts
**Triple Play**

New York City has always been a dazzling swirl of fashion, film and politics. And despite the stifling grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wright State University alumnus Christensen Oninku continues to point his career arrow at the Big Apple.

**Human Interest**

Wright State political science alumnus Neal Dulker balances Air Force mega-contracting with serving the homeless.

Driving around downtown Dayton in an old white bus looking for homeless people to help is a regular thing for Neal Dulker.

**Flavor Enhancer**

Jazline Gomez, a 23-year-old WSU psychology and Spanish major, is the owner of Pepe's Mexican Flavors, an authentic Mexican restaurant that features everything from street-style tacos to corn on the cob coated with mayo, cotija cheese, cayenne and lime to mango ice cream with chili pepper and coconut.

**Quick Links**

- Creative Thinking
- Talent to Spare
- In Appreciation
- History Senior Lecturer part of online video program for AP students
- Supporting our Shining Stars
- Opportunity to Learn from Film and Television Professionals
- Brushing Up
- Political Science Professor sheds light on political parties' use of websites and social media
- Coat Collectors

View past COLA Newsletters
At Your Service

Public service seems to be in his DNA. Wright State University M.P.A. alumnus Tom Thompson has served in the Air Force, in municipal government and in law enforcement. His most recent effort is founding a nonprofit that serves the region's immigrant community.

CLASS Corner

All workshops presented virtual via WebEx until further notice:
https://wright.webex.com/meet/wayne.stark

Is Graduate School Right for YOU?
Friday
February 12, 2021
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm

Internships 101 for Liberal Arts Students
Tuesday
February 16, 2021
12:15 - 1:00 pm

Using Social Media to Connect with Jobs and Internships
Thursday
February 25, 2021
2:15 - 3:00 pm

Playing for Keeps

“Everyone likes to play outside.”

Those are the words of Juan Muñoz, co-coordinator of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, chapter of Latino Outdoors.

The group’s mission is to inspire, connect and engage Latino communities in the outdoors and embrace culture and family as part of the outdoor narrative to help ensure that Latino heritage and leadership are valued and represented.

How to Excel at Virtual Career Events as a Liberal Arts Student
Wednesday
March 10, 2021
12:30 - 1:15 pm

Winning Interview Strategies for Liberal Arts Students
Tuesday
March 23, 2021
10:45 - 11:30 am

Salary and Benefits Negotiation
Thursday
March 25, 2021
2:15 - 3:00 pm
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, ArtsGaia. 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.

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.

ArtsGaia funds the dreams of Wright State students working toward pursuing careers as Broadway performers, movie directors, musicians, and artists. Despite the immense obstacles of the COVID-19 pandemic, our students have adapted.

In an effort to safeguard essential scholarship support, we are testing multiple possible scenarios to achieve our fundraising goal for this year. We are not yet sure which plan will best allow us to remain safe and also create a memorable experience for students, donors and guests, so stay tuned.

No matter what form ArtsGaia takes, your backing is critical. We appreciate your continued support that helps us keep the dreams of arts students alive.