

A message from the dean

I am often called upon to explain the relevance of the liberal arts to today's world and today's workplace. I usually present some variation of the following.

It doesn't matter if your major is Sociology, or English, or Theatre, or Spanish, or Anthropology, or even Art History, as mine was. While you're mastering your field, in the liberal arts you also learn to ask "what if?", to say "why not?", and then to make things happen. You learn the value of sitting down with a team, assessing each other's strengths, and then completing a project together. You learn to do the right thing when the right thing to do is not easy. You learn to think sideways when the answer to a problem is not directly in front of you.



And when it's done, you realize that you'll be living with yourself for the rest of your life. A liberal arts education is also about filling your mental tank to fuel an interesting and fulfilling life for the one person you can't avoid—you. After all, you don't want to live with a dullard!

We know how vital the liberal arts are to personal and professional success, and even to our nation: the liberal arts are all about educating informed citizens with a sense of civic responsibility. But we need to do more to convince the general public about the value of the liberal arts. To that end, this year we've launched two new certificates that highlight the role of the liberal arts as providers of essential workplace skills. Employers list specific skills as critical to the workforce of tomorrow and most likely to lead to advancement: written and verbal communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills, the ability to work in teams, and an understanding of our multicultural world. That is what we do in this college. We've recently created two new certificates, Career Advancement I, and Career Advancement II, that certify achievement of these skills. They can be awarded to existing students and also to people already in the workforce that need a little polish to move up the ladder. We're in the early stages of getting the word out, but already we can see these credentials will be a big hit.

We are committed to offering all our students an opportunity for hands-on experience prior to graduation. In fact, we've started to talk about requiring real-world experience, or experiential learning in the language of academia. If you'll let me dream big for a moment, what I'd really, really like to do is to be able to say that the College of Liberal Arts will require real-world experience and, because we think it's so important to our students' future success, we will provide a scholarship to every COLA student for that portion of their education. Now all I have to do is figure out how to pay for it.

I hope you are enjoying big dreams and big successes.



Linda Caron
Dean, College of Liberal Arts



Kearstyn Bowen

Donor Appreciation Reception

On October 10 the college hosted our annual COLA Donor Appreciation Reception. More than 150 donors and scholarship recipients gathered in our beautiful Creative Arts Center to celebrate the generosity of our patrons and wonderful accomplishments of our students. Guests were entertained by guitar and percussion music by our students as well as performances from *The Adams Family*.

Our students benefit tremendously from the gifts of many kind people who invest in their futures, and it was magical to see many students and donors meet each other for the very first time. It was especially touching to hear the remarks by **Kearstyn Bowen**, a junior french major who shared her personal story about the impact the Pierre L. Horn Scholarship has made on her life. Kearstyn is amazing and we are very proud of her.



**Béla John Bognár,
professor emeritus of social work,
passes away at 88**

Béla John Bognár, professor emeritus of social work at Wright State University and founder of the Bognár Family Hungarian Scholarship Fund, died of natural causes on Sept. 24. He was 88.

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COLA Outstanding Faculty and Staff



Kelli Zaytoun
COLA Outstanding Faculty Award



Prevent Defense

Tylar O'Neal-White heads up Wright State's Power Based Violence Program.

"Power-based violence is really widespread," said Tylar O'Neal-White, coordinator of Wright State University's Power Based Violence Program. "Anybody can be a victim or a perpetrator of it."

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Crystal Lake
COLA Outstanding Research Award



Karen Lahm
COLA Outstanding Teaching Award



American Factory

Latest documentary by Wright State filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar premiered in Dayton and is now splashing across movie, television and computer screens around the world.

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Rebecca Edwards
COLA Outstanding Professional Service Award



Battle Tested

Loghan Young, a master of Public Administration student, helps fellow veterans succeed as a graduate assistant in the Veteran and Military Center.

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Ashley Hall
COLA Outstanding Early Career Achievement Award

Wright State offering Career Advancement Skills Certificates to students, outside employees

Career advancement skills such as communications, problem solving and critical thinking are the focus of new certificates being offered to Wright State students and outside employees.

The certificate programs offered by the College of Liberal Arts are available to all Wright State students as well as employees and others in the outside community.

[Read more >>](#)



French Lesson

Wright State alum David Hardman uses French skills as springboard to life in France.

"I've always wanted to live in another country," said Hardman. "But I've always thought I would want to come back to Wright State and teach French. Maybe one day I'll come back and do that."

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Jennifer Buckwalter
COLA Outstanding
Community Engagement
Award



Laurel Monnig
COLA Outstanding
Lecturer Award



Alumni Achievement Awards

The Alumni Association Achievement Awards Dinner was held October 4, 2019 and we are proud to celebrate two COLA awardees:

- **Cameron Holsinger**, '04 Theatre Design & Technology, Alumnus of the Year Award
- **Carol and Richard Lundin**, Honorary Alumni Award

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Thomas Sobieski
COLA Outstanding Adjunct
Award



Political Science Major Kevin Jones Dives Deep into Government, Activism and Community Service

The political bug bit him in high school when he was job-shadowing a federal prosecutor. That led Kevin Jones to stints with the National Urban League, the Columbus City Council's Division of Community Engagement and the Franklin County treasurer's office.

[Read more >>](#)



Amy Neace
COLA Outstanding Staff
Award



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.

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.