From the Dean...

Fall Quarter 2011 was the last fall quarter for our college and for Wright State. Fall term 2012 will mark a return to the semester academic calendar. WSU began on the semester calendar system in the 1960’s. As I watched the term progress I kept thinking of the saying, “If you want to get something done, ask a busy person.” We have historically been a busy college and we do indeed get things done. Our planning for the return to semesters is on track with all programs already converted. This year the main focus is getting students correctly advised on how the change will affect their degree completion plans.

Each fall we gather for a beginning of the year event. This year’s theme was the future of the liberal arts in higher education. Separate discussion sessions were focused on the fine and performing arts, the social sciences, the humanities and on global education. Each discussion was led by a team of senior and junior faculty pairs.

October 20, 2012 was a very special day for our college. Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, Jim Petro, came to campus and held a press conference announcing that CELIA, our center for collaborative education, leadership and innovation in the arts, has been selected to be an Ohio Center of Excellence. The announcement was celebrated by a congratulatory video from Tom Hanks.

Our college excels at changing people’s lives by helping them become better at learning. This fall we are watching the renovation of Schuster Hall, starting the final planning for the renovation of the Creative Arts Center and beginning to plan for a new classroom building on campus. Our great faculty will take full advantage of these new teaching spaces for generations of students to come. The future of the liberal arts at Wright State is very promising indeed.

This will also be my final year at Wright State. In June 2012, I will have completed 35 years at WSU and two years as a visiting professor at other institutions. It is the right time for the college to have new leadership and for me to try learning some new things.
Wright State’s President’s Ambassadors Program includes nine members from the College of Liberal Arts alone. Students involved in this program provide representation at various WSU events. They act as tour guides and represent both the university and the Office of the President at dinners, meetings, and events with community leaders, alumni, and donors. These select students help perpetuate the university’s positive reputation. The Ambassadors are available to attend events both large and small, and membership is selected through an application process (see the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, 350 University Hall, to apply). Applications are reviewed in Spring and Summer, though they are accepted anytime of the year. Students must be juniors or seniors. Each Ambassador must have a passion for the university and be able to interact in a formal business setting.

CoLA Ambassadors currently serving the university are Baylee Butler (Political Science), Holly Jackson (English), Melissa McCarthy (International Studies), Ryan Phipps (Political Science), Daniel Rhodes (Spanish), Elaina Smart (International Studies), Dan Thomas (Political Science), Luke Wortley (Spanish), and Brandy Zapata (Mass Communication).

Ambassadors shown here at the Rockafeld House for an event hosted by Dr. Hopkins in appreciation of their service to the University and the Office of the President.

Baylee Butler is a first generation senior Political Science major with a minor in Philosophy. She says that being an Ambassador has allowed her to network with donors, elected officials, and administrators. She has been able to attend several Board of Trustee dinners, donor receptions, and award ceremonies as part of her duties. Her Ambassador training has allowed her to learn a lot about the university, as well as proper etiquette and professional skills that will be useful in her plans for law school and a career as a criminal or corporate attorney.

Volunteering has always been an important part of Baylee’s life, and in addition to serving as an Ambassador, she has been highly involved in community organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, and March of Dimes. She is also extremely active at Wright State with the College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Student Advisory Board, Phi Kappa Phi, the Honors Director’s Student Advisory Board, and Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society. In addition, she holds office in several groups on campus such as the Residential Community Association and Student Honors Association. Baylee loves Wright State and considers it her home.

Baylee feels that she has a unique opportunity because “our university is not grounded in traditions like most universities of our caliber. For this reason current student leaders have a unique responsibility that most do not get the opportunity to take up: we have a great opportunity at Wright State to leave our mark.”
Recognizing Philanthropy and Student Achievements in CoLA

On November 6, the College of Liberal Arts hosted its annual donor recognition ceremony at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Center in downtown Dayton. More than 200 people joined together to recognize and honor important donors to the college and many talented student scholarship recipients. It was a great way for scholarship donors to meet the students benefiting from their generosity and for the students to thank them for their support. The evening ended with the ever-popular Holidays in the Heartland concert featuring Wright State University’s Department of Music choral and instrumental ensembles.

Pat O’Christie, Michele O’Christie, Charles Taylor, Sierra Gelhot, Randall Paul. Presentation of the Margorie O’Christie Wilson Woodwind Music Scholarship.


Charles Taylor, David Garrison, Elizabeth Wells, Suzanne Garrison. Presentation of the David and Suzanne Garrison Endowed Scholarship for Modern Languages.

Regina Villaver, Don Graber, Gloria Graber, Charles Taylor, Megan Spencer. Presentation of the Gloria and Don Graber ARTSGALA Scholarship.

Courtney Greaver, Charles Taylor, Howard Stevens, Sharon Chaney, James Oblack. Presentation of the Chally Group Worldwide ARTSGALA Scholarship.

Click here to view and purchase photos taken at the 2011 CoLA Donor Recognition Ceremony.
Scholarship support plays a key role for many students and their success at Wright State University. Scholarships can make a pivotal difference in Changing the Lives of our students. The College of Liberal Arts in particular has a long history of supporting its students in a variety of ways.

Three common scholarships types at WSU are merit-based, experiential learning and need-based. Merit-based scholarships help recruit and retain talented students, increase graduation rates, and help Wright State stay competitive with other Ohio public Institutions. The Val P. Hattemer Scholarship for Music Students is an example of a merit-based scholarship. This scholarship benefits students who have interest and proven talent in clarinet, bassoon, or a double reed musical instrument.

Finally, experiential learning scholarships allow our students to deepen their educational experience and broaden their worldview via international travel, internship experiences, and “hands on” local or national travel. Examples of these scholarships are the Liberal Arts Study Abroad Scholarship and the Model United Nations Fund.

Need-based scholarships help a variety of students with financial need. These awards are critical to the success of those who otherwise would not be able to afford to come to or stay at Wright State. The ARTSGALA scholarships that benefit Art, Music and Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures students are an example of need-based scholarships.

Scholarship support can be provided by annual giving, planned giving, and multi-year gifts. Please consider investing in Wright State students by designating your gifts to student scholarship support. For more information about how to begin the process to transform CoLA and student lives via a scholarship, please contact Sara Woodhull at 937-775-4921 or sara.woodhull@wright.edu.

Kashauna had a good time at WSU as a Sociology major and hopes to go to graduate school here in 2012 for Applied Behavioral Science.

As a History major pursuing graduate school, Matthew’s hope is to one day return to WSU as a professor of American History.

Jack is also a Sociology major who says it has been a long hard road, but he is proud to have finally Kashauna Mathis, Matthew Henning and Jack Kronk

Mike Lohan
Mike is an International Studies major and has a job lined up in Cincinnati. Mike feels his education at WSU definitely helped in obtaining the position.
President Hopkins and The University Center for International Education (UCIE) presented the 10th annual International Education Award to Robert “Bobby” Rubin, Senior Lecturer in English and Director of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the UCIE Fall reception.

The award is designed to recognize the successful efforts of members of the Wright State community in expanding global awareness and international understanding on campus and in the surrounding communities.

Rubin’s work in study abroad and with international students on campus led to his nomination and selection for the award. Having lived in Costa Rica as a high school foreign exchange student, Bobby later helped create a study abroad program there for college students at his alma mater, Indiana University, then built the first of Wright State’s “ambassador” programs for which faculty create courses linked to a study abroad opportunity.

Rubin has directed and taught the Ambassador Program to Costa Rica for nearly twenty years, serving on UCIE’s Education and Work Abroad Committee, and inspiring the development of other ambassador study abroad opportunities. In 2006, the Costa Rica program received the President’s Award for Excellence: Outstanding Collaborative Units. As English department chair Carol Loranger notes, “He has truly helped develop global awareness on this campus.” Congratulations, Bobby!

Register as soon as possible! With record enrollments, classes close quickly! Check your registration status in Wings Express to make sure you know the first day you can register, and ensure that you’ve met with your advisor well in advance so you can have multiple schedule ideas planned out.

Graduation application filing periods run from December 8, 2011 to March 1, 2012 if you anticipate graduating in June, after the Spring Quarter. In the College of Liberal Arts, you must get a degree check done before submitting your graduation application, so make sure you meet with your advisor before the March 1 deadline!

Here’s something I’ve used quite a bit lately. To enlarge or decrease the size of the text on webpages press Ctrl plus or minus keys on a windows machine, or command plus or minus on a mac. Every program has many keyboard shortcuts that can save you tons of time when working. Pointing and clicking your mouse can take much longer. Save = ctrl+S (cmd+S for mac), Copy = Ctrl+C (cmd+C for mac), Paste = Ctrl+V (cmd+V for mac). Most shortcuts are listed next to the commands when you go to click on them in the menu portion of your program. Take the time to learn these and save time! Dropbox.com is an excellent (free) resource for storing and sharing large files with yourself on multiple computers or with other people. You can upgrade storage for a cost.
In June, Provost Steven Angle led a delegation from Wright State that visited universities in two provinces in China. The delegation included Stephen Foster, associate vice president for international affairs; Andrew Hsu, dean of the School of Graduate Studies; Charles Taylor, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; S. Narayanan, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science; Richard Williams, assistant dean of the Raj Soin College of Business; and Lang Hong, associate dean for research and graduate studies, College of Engineering and Computer Science.

The whirlwind, 10-day trip originated through an invitation from the Minister of Education for Liaoning Province in China had a delegation to Wright State in December 2010. The ministry arranged for the WSU group to visit 9 universities in Shenyang, Dalian, and Taiyuan. The Wright State delegation also visited the Liaoning Province Ministry of Education and the American Consulate in Shenyang.

Four dual enrollment agreements were signed during the trip. Under the agreements, Chinese students will attend Wright State University to seek graduate degrees. One agreement with Taiyuan University of Technology has already resulted in 12 students planning to attend Wright State in Fall 2012. Two of these new students will be graduate students in our Department of English’s TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program.

The partnerships WSU is establishing in China will greatly benefit its students. As Provost Angle acknowledged, “our students are going to work in a very small world in a global economy, and they need to be able to relate to people from different cultures, from different countries. This is one way for us to provide an experience for our students who can’t study abroad to interact with students from another country.”

Also this summer, Dr. Chris Hall, Stephanie Dickey, Carol Cornett, and Jenny Rowe from the Department of English traveled to northeastern China to Wright State University’s partner Dalian Institute of Science & Technology where they conducted a four-week academic skills workshop for 26 students attending LEAP (Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes) fall quarter. The fourth of July was celebrated with a Chinese barbecue on the beach with American sides: coleslaw, potato salad, and cherry cobbler.
After six years as Director of LEAP (Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes), Carol Cornett has stepped down as Director and will return to teaching full-time. Carol became Director of LEAP at a time when the program served a very small number of students. Today, thanks to Carol’s leadership, enrollment has significantly increased and the program enrolled 140 students during fall quarter. More then 200 students are expected winter quarter. LEAP now employs 5 full time faculty, 6 full time visiting instructors and 6 adjunct instructors.

Jeannette Horwitz will become LEAP Director beginning Winter Quarter. She has taught in LEAP for twelve years and has assisted Carol throughout LEAP’s stunning growth. Catherine Crowley will take on the role of Assistant Director. Jeannette and Catherine hold MA TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) degrees from WSU. They are committed to continuing and building on LEAP’s successful blend of language acquisition and cultural immersion, and its close bond with its current and former students, which have been central elements of the program’s amazing growth.

Catherine Crowley and Jeanette Horwitz are happy with the new LEAP Program office, located in 133 Allyn Hall.

CoLA Dean's Office staff joined friends and colleagues across WSU’s campus in creating a memory children who are in the hospital.

Cards were made for patients of Children's Medical Center. Dayton Children’s makes sure that each of its young patients has a card of encouragement during the holiday season.

New Home for LEAP Program Office

Fun Fact…

390 Liberal Arts graduates are currently employed with their Alma Mater, Wright State University, in Faculty and Staff positions. (176 in faculty positions and 214 in staff positions.)

Tyler Shepard, Katie Montgomery and Mack Everly

Tyler is a Music Education major and plans to substitute teach for awhile. He said he feels like he has grown up at WSU and this is home to him. Over the past 5 years, Tyler says he has felt the Lord’s guidance and faithfulness. Tyler met his fiancée at WSU!

Also a Music Education major, Katie would like to be a high school band director.

Mack is a Political Science major who plans to obtain his Paralegal certification and apply to Law School.
The God Killer
By Charles Alan Long

The first victim is hung in crucifixion position—a gash in his side and a wreath on his head. Homicide detectives Dylan Black and Vivienne Sheffield are baffled by strange words written in Scrabble tiles, the dead man’s discarded glass eye, and wolf hair left at the scene.

The victim’s neighbor, a college student and mythology buff, is convinced the victim is not meant to represent Jesus, but rather an ancient Viking god who was killed by a monstrous, mythical wolf.

Four months later, the second murder is even more bloody and bizarre. The killer has beheaded, speared, and partially mum-mified a woman. This time he has painted Egyptian hieroglyphs on the bedroom wall and left behind a man’s severed hand and seven scorpions.

With few clues to go on, Black and Shef-field desperately search for answers from the zoo to the university and even to a strip club. As the hunt progresses, Detective Black finds himself entangled in a secret relationship—a relationship that just might alter the Wolf’s next move.

About the Author:
Charles Alan Long works full-time at Wright State as CoLA’s Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs. He spends much of his free time writing novels, short stories and poetry. He’s published more than a dozen stories—ranging from spy tales to superheroes adventures—in a variety of anthologies. The God Killer is his first novel.

Find him online at charlesalanlong.com

On sale now at Amazon.com

Psychology and Constructivism in International Relations
By Vaughn P. Shannon and Paul A. Kowert

Constructivist international relations scholars study the ways in which international norms, culture, and identities inform foreign policy and affect the reaction to and outcomes of international events. Political psychologists similarly investigate divergent national self-conceptions as well as the individual cognitive and emotional propensities that shape ideology and policy. Given their mutual interest in human subjectivity and identity politics, a dialogue and synthesis between constructivism and political psychology is long overdue.

The contributors to this volume discuss both theoretical and empirical issues of complementarity and critique, with an emphasis on the potential for integrating the viewpoints within a progressive ideational paradigm. Moreover, they make a self-conscious effort to interrogate, rather than gloss over, their differences in the hope that such disagreements will prove particularly rich sources of analytical and empirical insight.

About the Authors:
Vaughn P. Shannon is Associate Professor of Political Science at Wright State University.

Paul A. Kowert is Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University.

On sale now at Amazon.com

We Shadows Have Offended
By K.W. Taylor

This horror novella involves a group of friends who encounter a demon as children and then experience similar terrifying demonic encounters as adults. The story is extremely dark, and it has a vaguely historical bent, set in an indeterminate time period in Chicago.

Excerpt:
One second, it had been four boys sitting on a rusty metal carousel as it lazily spun in the late October breeze. Bill was lighting matches and flicking them off into piles of leaves. Hammond was smacking him on the back of the head for doing so every time he caught him. “My mama’s going to bust you, fool,” Hammond would say. “Gonna burn the whole house down.”

Sam just laughed at the two of them, while Roger himself wished he were brave enough to go play with tiny Nona Centini as she sat on the sidewalk nearby, alternately hugging and beating her beloved grey teddy bear. Roger’s tiny cousin was just Nona’s age, and he missed her painfully.

“What’s the funny talker think?” Bill was asking.

Roger glared at him and longed to answer in his native tongue but didn’t dare. Bill was the only one of the boys who mocked him, and Roger didn’t care for his attitude. “Something is wrong with your head,” he told Bill.

That was when Sam had gasped and begun to point. “Not his head,” Sam had murmured. “What’s wrong with Nona?”

There was no longer a sweet toddler on the sidewalk. Nona’s bear was cast onto the grass, and there was still a tiny figure wearing her crisp, white dress. The thing inside the dress, however, was very clearly no longer human.

About the Author:
K.W. Taylor is the nom de plume of English lecturer and College Advisor Kathleen Taylor Kollman. She has had over a dozen short stories published in the genres of horror, fantasy, science fiction, and literary fiction. She has also written non-fiction pieces for The Fogdog Review, the Dayton City Paper, and the Ohio Council Teachers of English Language Arts. “We Shadows Have Offended” was released by Etopia Press in October of 2011. She also has a piece in the anthology Once Bitten, Never Die, released in November by Wicked East Press.

On sale at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and OmniLit. Available soon for Sony, Kobo, and iBooks.
Wright State University’s Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center has recently been the focus of much good news. The university was recognized “with Distinction” on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for both 2009 and 2010, an honor received by only 114 institutions across the country.

These honors have resulted from the efforts of many individuals and groups across campus, and CoLA faculty members have been among the foremost leaders. CoLA is the college boasting the largest number of faculty members to participate in the Service-Learning Faculty Learning Communities—20 out of 37—and the greatest number of courses and sections approved for service-learning designations—28 out of 37.

The Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center serves as a hub for university community engagement. Major aspects of the center’s work include overseeing the Engaged Citizenship Studies Certificate program; providing faculty development opportunities (yearlong faculty learning communities, workshops, book/article discussion groups, mentoring and individual consultations); and collaborating with Student Activities and other units on days of service events.

Two AmeriCorps VISTAs manage ongoing projects and partnerships in the areas of Youth and Literacy and Poverty. They coordinate tutoring and projects that support four area schools and two afterschool programs and organize Wright State’s Friendship Food Pantry and projects supporting local nonprofits that serve those experiencing hunger and homelessness.

Several CoLA faculty designed service-learning projects for their classes this fall. Students in an English 101 class raised funds and conducting food collections to create Thanksgiving meal bags for Wright State students with families who are being served by our Friendship Food Pantry. An English 102 class served at the Gateway Shelter for Men, St. Vincent’s Food Pantry, House of Bread and the Homefull Micro-Farm. Many Social Work students tutored at Westwood PreK-8 School, assisted in running games and serving food at Westwood’s Family Fun Night and Trunk or Treat, and worked at Westwood Community Pride Clean-up Day.

CoLA faculty and students participated in other fall service-learning projects, as well. Social Work students worked with Saville Elementary School children on safe and courteous playground behavior and conducted a Make-A-Difference-Day drive that netted over $3,300 worth of hygiene supplies for the school and Friendship Food Pantry. A History 102 honors class worked with Thurgood Marshall High School students, examining the history of the development of individual rights and equal access to quality education as a right.

Most recently, WSU was identified by The Washington Monthly as eighth in the nation among higher education institutions that participated in the most community service. WSU documented approximately 900,000 hours of volunteer activity last year alone. 2012 will certainly bring many new opportunities for WSU to give back to our community.
On October 15, the College of Liberal Arts held the first ArtsFair sponsored by Morris Home Furnishings. For just $5, attendees spent their Saturday morning watching and participating in activities focused on the arts.

The idea came from Larry Klaben, President of Morris Furniture Company, Wright State alumnus and one of the original committee members of ARTSGALA, an annual black-tie fundraiser that showcases all the fine and performing arts at Wright State. He saw what a great event ARTSGALA was and he wanted to see a collaborative art event for more people in our community.

“(We thought) there should be a program that can bring the arts to families, the community and people who work here at Wright State,” said Klaben. “We wanted it to be affordable so it would be accessible to all.”

ArtsFair focused on families in our community coming together to express themselves through the arts. Throughout the day, participants enjoyed drawing on the covered walls of the art gallery, an interactive percussion activity, a performance by the Saxophone Quartet, face painting, a Hairspray performance, acting and dancing classes, and a mini theatre show called Disney & Friends.

Some attendants came to express themselves through art while others came to support their family. “(My husband and I) have lived the arts since high school and now our children are doing it,” said Peggy Tura, the mother of a performer in Disney & Friends.

Jennifer Buckwalter, Assistant Director of Development in the College of Liberal Arts, said this was something the college had never tried before and they were pleased with the outcome. “The arts programs are already known by the Wright State family,” said Buckwalter. “We wanted to engage the community through ArtsFair. Hopefully people will remember now that if they want arts entertainment, they can come to Wright State.”

Klaben was proud of the hard work that went into bringing ArtsFair to life. “We’re so honored to have such great arts programs and students,” said Klaben. “(It’s a) well kept secret about how good the arts are here, but we don’t want this to be a secret any longer.”

See more ArtsFair photos on CoLA Facebook
Thanks to a very kind donation from the Dayton Power and Light Company Foundation, Theatrical Design and Technology majors in CoLA’s Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures are now working with some new state-of-the-art lighting equipment. DP&L has graciously helped the department move forward by providing a majority of the funding for some LED-powered lighting gear, which is now being used in WSU’s many theatre performances and in the classroom.

High powered LED (Light Emitting Diode) technology has radically affected the world of entertainment lighting over the past decade. It has been, however, only in the last three or four years that the brightness in readily-available LED-based lighting instruments has increased to the point that these LED lights can directly compete with traditional theatrical lights using tungsten-halogen lamps. It is virtually impossible to find a Broadway production, a large-scale rock concert, a casino show, or a corporate event that does not use a large number of LED fixtures.

Most LED fixtures designed for the entertainment market are equipped with a series of different colored LEDs. Associate Professor Matthew P. Benjamin, Resident Lighting Designer for the Department of Theatre Arts, selected LED fixtures that have groups of Red, Green, Blue and Amber LEDs. Each of these color groups of LEDs can be controlled separately though computerized lighting consoles, allowing the student lighting designers to mix an almost infinite number of colors from a single lighting instrument.

LED fixtures are becoming extremely popular in the entertainment design world. In addition to the greatly reduced electrical requirements, the life expectancy of a high-end LED light source can be in the neighborhood of 60,000 hours, while traditional theatrical lamps are rated in hundreds of hours. The LED fixtures generate very little heat in comparison to a traditional lighting instrument. So, not only is Wright State University’s carbon footprint lessened by the smaller amount of power required to run the LED lights, but the demand for cooling in the performance venues is also lowered.

Junior lighting design major, Danielle Ferguson, stated that “it has been a great opportunity to work with the AC Lighting Chroma-Q units, as they are widely used in the profession. This is helping to prepare my classmates and me to succeed after we leave Wright State.”

The Department of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures thanks Ginny Strausburg from the DP&L Foundation for her support, and urges everyone to come see these lights in use during a production staged by their nationally recognized program!

For a full listing of upcoming theatre performances, visit: www.wright.edu/tdmp

In WSU’s fall production of the hit Broadway musical, Hairspray, the backdrops were lit from above by twelve of the recently purchased LED fixtures. With older, traditional striplights, the electricity required to light the backdrops with similar color-mixing options would be over 180 amps. Using the new LED fixtures turned on to “full”, the electrical draw was only 20 amps!
Tom Hanks has a long and storied connection with Wright State University. Around 1978, while he was apprenticing at the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival in Cleveland, Tom appeared at Wright State in a touring production of a Shakespeare comedy — rumor has that it was *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Soon thereafter Tom headed for New York. Once there, he landed the lead in *The Mandrake* by Machiavelli, a show being produced by Dr. Stuart McDowell, current chair of WSU’s department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures. Tom moved to Hollywood, where he soon became a sought-after comic actor and began his amazing journey to becoming among the most successful actors in American history, as well as an important director and producer of numerous films and television series.

Wright State established its next Hanks connection in the late 1980’s, when WSU Motion Pictures alumnus Eric Bork moved to Hollywood soon after graduation and became a script reader for Hanks at his new Playtone Studio. This led to Eric’s job as screenwriter and supervising producer for *Earth to the Moon* and *Band of Brothers*, winning Emmys for both Hanks and Bork. When Bork became one of the first winners of the Distinguished Alumni Award for WSU’s Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures department, Hanks sent an improvised video of congratulations from the rooftop of his Santa Monica office, filled with typical Hanks humor.

Hanks has also been involved in promoting financial support of the arts at Wright State. In 2005, he and his wife, Rita Wilson, established the Tom Hanks Scholarship Fund and the Tom Hanks Visiting Artists Fund. In 2006, Hanks helped WSU raise scholarship funds by offering an auction item at ARTSGALA where the highest bidder could enjoy “Tea with Hanks” on the shooting set for *The DaVinci Code* in Rome. That trip netted over $30,000 for scholarships.

In August 2010, President David Hopkins and his wife, Angelia, met Hanks in his production studio, where Hanks agreed — with great gusto! — to become more involved with Wright State, beginning with heading up a major promotional drive for our arts programs.

In August 2011, WSU Motion Pictures alumni Evan Nesbit and Nicole Simmons, together with a local crew, filmed Hanks in his Santa Monica studio. Hanks warmly congratulated the arts at Wright State for being named an Ohio Center of Excellence in the Arts. His filmed message was presented at a press conference at Wright State, at which Ohio Chancellor of Higher Education, James Petro, officially named WSU’s CELIA (Collaborative Education Leadership and Innovation in the Arts) an Ohio Center of Excellence in the Arts. And now, Hanks’ praise for WSU arts can be heard on the radio, and be seen on both television and in the movies.

Click [here](#) to see Tom Hanks’ video about WSU.
Join us for these upcoming fun events!  
(You don’t have to be a WSU grad to participate)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6:**
Men’s basketball game versus Butler followed by a Beer Tasting

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 12:**
Free Financial Aid Seminar for parents and their college-bound children

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28:**
Wine Tasting followed by a WSU theatre production of *Rent*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10:**
Blast from the Past tailgate party followed by a WSU Raiders men’s basketball game

**FEBRUARY 11:**
Open House in the Rockafield House followed by Rowdy Gras, a New Orleans Style Monte Carlo night, in the McLin gym

To register for any of these events call the office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620 or visit us online by clicking here →
Degree Focus...Liberal Studies

The College of Liberal Arts currently offers over fifty different majors, over a dozen minors, and seven undergraduate certificate programs. Yet for many students, limiting themselves to a specific major or minor combination is too restrictive for their purposes. They want a major that fuses many of the great things about the fine arts, humanities, and social sciences into an interdisciplinary package that speaks to the breadth of subjects one can study in the College. The solution for many of these students is the Liberal Studies major.

Liberal Studies majors are currently among the largest populations of students in the College. Over a hundred students have it as their declared primary major as of the Winter 2012 registration period. Students in the Liberal Studies major take a core of courses in each of the three umbrella disciplines in the College, and then proceed to narrow down into a concentration in one of those three areas. The beauty of the major is that other than what level the course must be, there are no further restrictions on student choice in their area of emphasis. For students who need flexibility in their program of study, the plethora of options available can mean a more diverse, exiting route toward completion of an extremely versatile degree.

Dr. Bruce LaForse, Associate Professor of Classics, currently helms the program, and Kathleen Kollman serves as its primary College Advisor. To find out more about whether the Liberal Studies major might be for you, contact the Office of Academic Services at 937-775-2601.

Liberal Arts—A College Without Borders

Last June and July, Dr. December Green (International Studies and Political Science) led 11 WSU graduate and undergraduate students on a study abroad trip to compare human rights in Spain and Morocco. In addition to seeing sights such as Granada's Alhambra and the Djemaa el Fna market in Marrakesh, the group traveled by ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar and by mule through part of the High Atlas mountains. Along the way they interviewed human rights activists specializing in women's rights, immigrants' rights, and the rights of Gitanos (the Roma), just to name a few. They were lucky enough to witness a number of demonstrations such as that of los indignados in Madrid (an early Occupy Wall Street) and others in Fez and Casablanca associated with elections spurred by Morocco's Arab Spring.
Henry Limouze, Carol Loranger and Dennis Loranger led ten Wright State undergraduates to Ireland in Summer 2011 where they visited all four of Ireland's provinces, studying Irish music and culture, Anglo-Irish literature and the Irish American Experience. After a week in residence at Dublin's historic Trinity College and time to explore the capital city and its treasures, including the newly completed Samuel Beckett Bridge over the River Liffey, students and faculty spent a week on the road visiting historic, cultural and scenic locations and hearing music everywhere from cathedrals and concert halls to quaint rural pubs.

In July 2011, WSU Spanish lecturer Jennie Buckwalter participated in a 10-day trip to Costa Rica organized by WSU alumnus, Donnie Phelps. Buckwalter and Phelps led a group of students from Clinton-Massie high school on this enriching journey to learn more about the terrain, food, music, history, and language of Costa Rica. This high adventure trip included visits to hot springs, rain forests, beaches, and even horseback-riding and zip-lining!

The monkies at Manuel Antonio beach were used to posing for photos.

Clinton-Massie students enjoying a visit to the Cloud Forest.

Costa Rican students perform traditional dances for the group. These students attend a one-room schoolhouse for kids ages 6 through 13.
College of Liberal Arts
New Faculty for 2011-12

Karen Berry, LEAP Instructor (M.A., English-TESOL, Wright State University, 2008)
Marya Spring Cordes, Assistant Professor of Theatre (MFA, Directing, Carnegie Mellon University, 2011)
Amanda Egloff, Instructor of Theatre (BFA, Theatre Design and Production, University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music, 2003)
Charis Elliott, LEAP Instructor (M.A., English-TESOL, Wright State University, 2009)
Brian Feltman, Instructor of History (Ph.D., History, The Ohio State University, 2010)
Thomas Fenton, LEAP Instructor (M.Ed., Second Language Education, University of Toronto, 2010)
Daryl Hausman, LEAP Instructor (M.A., English-TESOL, Wright State University, 2011)
Caroline Hillard, Assistant Professor of Art and Art History (Ph.D., Italian Renaissance, Washington University in St. Louis, 2009)
Jean Koeller, Lecturer of Art and Art History (MFA, Parsons School of Art and Design, New York, 1987)
Crystal Lake, Assistant Professor of English (Ph.D., English, University of Missouri, 2008)
Laurel Monnig, Instructor of Anthropology (Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Illinois U-C, 2008)
Mailinh Nguyen, LEAP Instructor (M.A., English-TESOL, Wright State University, 2009)
Christine Sitko, LEAP Instructor (M.A., English-TESOL, Wright State University, 2008)
Lars Soderland, Assistant Professor of English (ABD, Rhetoric and Composition, Purdue University)
Lakshmi Tarumala, Instructor of Communication (January 1, 2012) – (Ph.D., Mass Communication, Texas Tech University, 2011)
Jonathan Varhola, Instructor of Sociology/Anthropology (January 1, 2012) – (M.A., applied Behavioral Science, Wright State University, 2011)

Meredith Binsach, Andrew Southworth and Shawndra Jones

Meredith is a Sociology major who has enjoyed the people she has gotten to know at WSU and feels she is leaving with many lifelong friends.

Andrew and Shawndra are both Motion Pictures graduates. Ultimately, Andrew would like to move to Europe and produce film. He feels WSU has given him the necessary tools to succeed in his field. Shawndra would like to move to Atlanta GA. She has an interest in the variety of studio options available there.

Asia and Ashley Robinson

Asia said WSU was an awesome experience and she has very much enjoyed her journey. For Ashley, coming to college was not easy. She feels blessed to have been able to come and enjoy this experience.
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Art
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For more information, contact Photography and Video Production at (937) 775-4968 or email chris.snyder@wright.edu