Faculty Recognitions

**Brady Allen**, Lecturer of English, was selected as the 2006 Honors Teacher of the Year.

**Carol Cornett**, Lecturer of English, and **Bruce Cromer**, Associate Professor of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures, are this year’s recipients of the Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching awards from the CoLA Community Advisory Committee.

**Charles Larkowski**, Professor of Music, was awarded the Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching award.

**Kelli Zaytoun**, Assistant Professor of English, was awarded the President’s Award for Excellence: Early Career Achievement.

****

While international numbers have plummeted across the nation, they have soared at WSU. The English Department’s Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes (LEAP) enrolled 100 students last year, and in the first two quarters of this year LEAP already had 107 students enrolled. Just this quarter, 21 new students began the intensive, one-year program.

Carol Cornett, Director of LEAP, said, “I guess being too big is a unique problem to have. It’s the first time we’ve had to have two sections of a course. We also have 17 students in Level Three, which is more than I would like for such an intensive course.”

However, Cornett relished having a more diverse student population in the program. LEAP enrolls students from the whole planet, including the Middle East, Africa, Asia, South America, and Central America.

Cornett also noticed some new trends in LEAP’s enrollment. In the past year, many students came from Africa. Cornett is excited about the new perspective that French-speaking Africans brought to the program.

LEAP has also experienced a surge in enrollment from Saudi Arabia for the first time since the terrorist attacks in 2001. The Saudi students were part of a new United States scholarship program based on increasing understanding between the two countries, and they come with four year scholarships for university study. Cornett discovered the program on a visit to embassies in Washington, DC, in 2005.

LEAP’s program has attracted students from around the world to WSU, and Cornett is excited with the program’s success.

Cornett said, “Our program is growing, and our students are very well-prepared for the academic skills they’ll need for university study.”
Although Garrison Keillor might still say, “It has been a quiet year in the College of Liberal Arts,” the truth is that 2005-06 has not been an ordinary year. In June we graduated the largest number of students in the history of the college, fulfilling the university’s mission to be a catalyst for educational excellence in and beyond the Miami Valley. Our graduates collectively have broad knowledge, malleable skills, and a concern for others that will enable them to begin or continue (and advance) in careers, pursue advanced study, and be informed citizens serving in their communities. Among these graduates and the largest number of majors in the history of the college were many examples of individual and group achievements of excellence documented elsewhere in this newsletter.

Twenty-one new faculty joined the college this past September and they, along with their new colleagues, are distinguishing the college through exemplary teaching, research and scholarship. Charles Larkowski, Bruce Cromer, Carol Cornett, Kelli Zaytoun and Brady Allen have won faculty awards. Carol Englehardt, Barry Milligan and Dan Johnson have received major external grants. Stuart McDowell, Carl Brun, Kirsten Halling, Liam Anderson, Bruce LaForse and In-Hong Cha have been promoted. Our staff, through hard work, helping each other and sheer determination has made the complex, difficult transition to our new administrative computing system, Banner, the most effective migration in the university.

In October former Dean Mary Ellen Mazey retired and I was appointed Interim Dean. Following a national search I was appointed the fifth dean of the college on April 1, 2006. As the largest and most diverse college in the university, CoLA has been distinguished by exceptional leadership and is today the strongest of WSU’s colleges. I hope as dean to be able to help build upon that strength.
CoLA Recognizes its Outstanding Alumni

On Saturday, April 22, CoLA recognized its outstanding alumni at the annual awards ceremony and dinner in the Millett Hall Atrium. Each alumna/us was selected by the chair and faculty in the department from which s/he received his/her degree.

The alumni have distinguished themselves by achieving high levels of accomplishment in their professions, demonstrating impressive volunteer service, seeking the advancement of Wright State University, and possessing high standards of integrity and character.

For the fifth year in a row, CoLA’s outstanding alumni and their guests were invited to a dinner and musical performance, which was followed by the awards ceremony. The department chairs presented their chosen alumna/us with a certificate and WSU coverlet and requested that the alumna/us say a few words about his/her time at WSU.

Former CoLA Dean, Mary Ellen Mazey, began the tradition of recognizing outstanding alumni in 2001, and the new CoLA Dean, Charles Taylor, carried on the tradition this year and hopes to hold an alumni awards dinner every year hereafter.

ArtsGala 2006

For the seventh year in a row, ArtsGala has attracted the attention of lovers of the fine and performing arts. Over 500 guests attended the event that took place on April 1 in the Creative Arts Center.

“It’s a big formal celebration that showcases our talented art, music, and theatre programs,” stated Jennifer Cabrera, interim development director for the College of Liberal Arts. “It’s a great way to show what our college has to offer future students.”

Over $100,000 was raised this year through ticket sales and from corporate and individual sponsors, as well as through a silent auction that showcased more than 20 pieces of art created by students, alumni and staff.

Since the first ArtsGala, more than $500,000 has been raised for scholarships and over 80 students have benefited. “The College of Liberal Arts takes great pride in these accomplishments,” said Cabrera.

Next year’s ArtsGala will take place on March 31, 2007. For more information on ArtsGala 2007, call (937) 775-5512.
Faculty and Students involved in Service Learning Projects

The College of Liberal Arts Civic Engagement Committee strives to meet the needs of students and the surrounding community through CoLA Service Learning projects and other community-based activities.

Throughout the academic year, students have engaged in service learning through several classes offered by various CoLA departments. Students were able to learn and develop by serving a public need, through projects integrated into the curriculum, and from reflecting on the service experience.

Cathy Sayer, an English department lecturer and chair of the CoLA Civic Engagement Committee, has created service learning projects for her English 330 Business Writing classes. “I contact area businesses and ask for a ‘wish list’ of documents that they need that they can’t get around to writing,” she says. “I choose the ones that best suit the course, and students write newsletters, web sites, policy and procedure manuals, brochures, and research reports for the nonprofits. Students learn by writing for a real audience,” explains Sayer.

Service learning is not limited to the English department. Several courses in other departments such as Communication, Modern Languages, Music, Social Work, Sociology, Theatre Arts and Urban Affairs and Geography offer service learning integrated into their curriculums. And the History and Political Science departments offer students opportunities for other types of civic activity.

The CoLA Civic Engagement Committee hopes to expand service learning to other departments, such as the Departments of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics in the near future. The committee also hopes to support the institutionalization of civic engagement and service learning throughout the entire university.

For the past year, Sayer and Jane Dockery have represented CoLA on the Provost’s Community and Civic Engagement Task Force, exploring how to institutionalize civic engagement at WSU. “We have submitted a report to the Provost for a two-phase implementation,” explains Sayer. “Hopefully, in a year or two, we will have a Civic Engagement Office to provide support for teachers and community partners.”

The service learning projects are important to CoLA because they are an extension of Wright State’s Mission Statement and provide students with the chance to be better citizens during their time at school and beyond.

Advisory Committees Award $12,000 in Faculty Awards and Student Scholarships

The WSU College of Liberal Arts’ Alumni Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee recently selected student scholarship recipients and outstanding faculty recipients. The awards were presented during a reception June 1.

This year’s student winners of the leadership scholarships are Joshua Baker (Music), Sean Graves (Philosophy and Political Science), Krystal Karshner (English), and Brandon Snell (Political Science). The students will split a $7,000 award. The faculty winners are Bruce Cromer (Associate Professor of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures) and Carol Cornett (Lecturer, English). Each faculty member received a $2,500 award and a recognition memento.

Student scholarship recipients were selected based on the strength of their applications and interview with the Alumni Advisory Committee. The outstanding teaching awardees were nominated by their department chairs and selected by the Community Advisory Committee.

Both committees meet with the CoLA Dean in October and April of each academic year and are updated on the college’s activities. Application materials for both awards are updated in the fall and recipients are chosen in the spring.

The CoLA Dean selects candidates for membership to the committees, comprised of 10 to 20 members each. Committee members may be college alumni, retirees or community leaders who contribute a tax-deductible gift of $500 per year for each three-year term.

For more information on the awards program or how to become involved with either committee, please contact Jennifer Cabrera in the College of Liberal Arts, at (937) 775-2575.
Damaris Serrano honored with the Ricardo Miró Award

The Republic of Panama recently honored Damaris Serrano, Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages, with the country’s highest literary award for her work, “Panamanian Literature: History, Nation, Society.”

Serrano won the Ricardo Miró National Literary Contest’s essay category for her dissertation on modern literary trends throughout Panama and Latin America. “I wanted to spread the news and break stereotypes of what is Panama,” said Serrano. Her 300-page manuscript is being published as a book by Panama’s Ministry of Culture. The public ceremony to present the book will take place on July 12th of this year in Panama’s National Theatre.

Due to complications with her visa, Serrano, who is from the northern part of Panama, was not able attend the award ceremony in person. David Garrison, chair of the Department of Modern Languages, flew to Panama to join Serrano’s parents and family, who accepted the award on her behalf.

“I felt that someone from the University should be there,” said Garrison. “The award has had a profound affect on me.”

The Ricardo Miró Award is Panama’s most prestigious and oldest national literary prize, started in 1942, and is considered by many to be the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize in the United States. The award comes with a medal and plaque as well as a $15,000 cash prize.

Ricardo Miró, for whom the award is named, was a late Romantic/early Modernist Panamanian poet.

Have a wonderful summer!

College of Liberal Arts

Carol Engelhardt and Barry Milligan Receive Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Fifteen high-school history and English teachers from across the country will be traveling to Europe this summer with Wright State History Professor Carol Engelhardt and English Professor Barry Milligan. The high-school teachers will be studying World War I and its aftermath in British culture by visiting different museums and battlefield sites.

“Nothing is like actually being there,” Professor Engelhardt said about the experience. “It’s incredibly moving.”

The high-school teachers were chosen out of 142 applicants from all over the country and will be traveling to England, France and Belgium throughout the four-week trip.

The main goal of the trip is to reenergize the high-school teachers so that they can better teach their students about the war. They will also obtain continuing education credit and be able to obtain in-state tuition.

“We really want to give the teachers tangible things to take back to their students and renew their excitement about teaching,” said Professor Milligan.

Professor Engelhardt and Professor Milligan received the supporting grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, after submitting a detailed proposal that went into a national pool. The grant provides a $3,000 stipend for each teacher, which typically will cover airfare and lodging.
American Humanics Students Attend National Conference in CA

Dr. Mary Wenning, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs & Geography and American Humanics Program Director, accompanied 10 Wright State American Humanics Student Association members to the American Humanics Management Institute (AHMI) in San Diego last January. AHMI is an extensive educational symposium designed for college students. AHMI offers students a chance to attend workshops and seminars to increase their professional leadership and development in working in the nonprofit industry.

The American Humanics Program is hosted by the Urban Affairs and Geography Department. Wright State is one of only three universities in the state of Ohio that has an affiliation with American Humanics. Students enrolled in the program are required to attend at least one Management Institute to receive their certification. January's institute focused on ethical dilemmas in nonprofit organizations and fundraising.

Students raised the money to attend the institute by holding fundraising events throughout the year. This year the students raised about half the funds needed for the January trip. Contributions from the Department of Urban Affairs and individual donors made it possible for the 10 students to attend the institute without any out-of-pocket expenses.

Eight of the 10 students are College of Liberal Arts students, including Shanel Gomez who was the liaison between the national institute and the WSU student group. Gomez has been nominated for the Department of Urban Affairs Undergrad Student of the Year.

International Studies Student Leads Model UN Team in New York

International Studies student Stephanie Precht recently led the Wright State University Model UN team during competition in New York City. As head delegate of the team of 32 students, Precht helped Wright State achieve a top 10 percent rating out of more than 250 schools.

Precht carries on a great tradition of head delegates at Wright State. This is the twenty-seventh year in a row the team finished in the top 10 percent.

“The New York competition is by far the most exciting and prestigious, but we also compete throughout the year in other area competitions,” Precht said.

Model UN is a role-playing competition in which students become delegates of different countries in order to write resolutions and discuss ways to solve problems for their country. The scenarios are very similar to interactions in the real United Nations. Wright State’s country this year was India.

The trip to New York City lasted one week, and the team stayed right in the heart of Times Square. For more information on the Model UN team at Wright State, contact the team’s supervisor, Donna Schlagheck, at d.schlagheck@wright.edu.
Students Travel to Greece to Work on Archeological Site

When asked what he did last summer, Mason Weed will tell you, “I got to play in the dirt and find hidden treasures.”

Mason, along with other WSU students Tim Hudson, Andrew Lotton, joined Assistant Classics Professor Jeannette Marchand on a trip to Kleonai, Greece, to excavate the ruins of an ancient city.

Dr. Marchand said that the site is a “rare find” because of the absence of a modern city on top of the ruins. Currently they are focusing their dig on the possible site of the Temple of Athena.

This is the second year in a row that Wright State students will be participating. Participants from the Marburg University in Germany, which is sponsoring the dig, will join them.

This year Dr. Marchand will be accompanied by Wright State students Shawn Daniels, Arick Mittler and Damion Sipe.

Students will be in charge of cleaning, identifying and piecing back together artifacts found at the Kleonai site. In the evenings, students will have a chance to get their hands dirty learning how to excavate a site.

On weekends, students will visit historical sites and soak up the Greek culture. During their trip, students will stay with a Greek family.

Last year Dr. Marchand also took a second group of WSU students to work on a second project in Greece. Jill Larkowski, Sherri Martin, and Jessica Storer project was at the museum in Ancient Corinth working on Bronze Age material from a surface survey at Dorati, which can probably be identified as the Orneiai mentioned in Homer’s Iliad, and which was only discovered a few years ago. This second project was sponsored by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Sherri Martin said, “The project was a fantastic learning opportunity for me. My experience was one that I will never forget.”

Unique Music Majors

It can be difficult to explain the importance of a university degree in words. So, Lincoln and Joselane “Jo” Berry decided to take action.

Lincoln and Jo, both successful musicians in their sixties, decided to pursue degrees at Wright State to show their children and grandchildren that college is important.

“Our motivation was to let the young children understand that it is very, very important to get a degree to get where you need to be,” Jo said. “If I can do it, certainly they can.”

Lincoln and Jo have been taking classes for six years and are majoring in music. Lincoln plans to graduate next year.

Herbert Dregalla, Chair of the Department of Music, said, “Both of them are very talented, but now they are learning about what it is that they’re doing.”

The Berrys were successful musicians long before their university education. Lincoln is a jazz organist who has performed with artists such as Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin, while Jo sings professionally and writes music. Both play a major role at Jazz Central, a Dayton night club on East Third Street.

“The children and the grandchildren tell me they’re pretty proud of Lincoln and Jo,” Jazz Central owner Charles Stone said.
**Social Work Scholarship Marks 25 Years of Benefiting Wright State Students**

2005 marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Ellen Wiedemann-Berger Memorial Award at Wright State University.

Ellen’s parents, Ernest and Mary Wiedemann, and Ellen’s husband, Daniel Berger, M.D., established this scholarship in Ellen’s memory when she and her infant son were tragically killed in a car accident in October 1980. The oldest sibling of seven, Ellen was a high achieving, hard-working individual, having earned two master’s degrees and her doctorate by age 28. As a new associate professor of Social Work at Wright State, Ellen always demonstrated passion for her field of study and consistently put others’ needs before her own. The Ellen Wiedemann-Berger Memorial Award benefits Wright State seniors majoring in Social Work who exhibit many of the traits that were so characteristic of Ellen.

Being involved with this scholarship has been a rewarding experience for Ernie and Mary Wiedemann, who acknowledge that the Wright State family was very kind to them at the time of their daughter’s death. Say the Wiedemanns, “It is gratifying for us to know that this scholarship has touched so many students, while at the same time keeps Ellen’s memory alive.”

The 25th recipient of the Ellen Wiedemann-Berger Memorial Award is Nancy Buckheister. Nancy began her pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in Social Work at Wright State in 2002 after more than 30 years of being out of the classroom environment. Nancy feels extremely honored and appreciative to have been selected to receive the Wiedemann-Berger Award. This financial support has afforded her the opportunity to take more classes per quarter, which will aid Nancy in earning her degree much more quickly. Nancy plans to graduate in 2007 and then pursue a Master’s in Social Work. Nancy hopes to use the skills she has learned to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

**Summerbridge Dayton – Students Teaching Students**

Now beginning its seventh year at Wright State, Summerbridge Dayton serves as an academic enrichment program for disadvantaged middle school students in the Dayton area who may not have the opportunity to grow in their present environment.

Pat Jones, the program’s director, visits Dayton area middle schools and looks for seventh and eighth graders who are interested in furthering themselves academically. Interested students must fill out an extensive application packet and explain why they want to attend Summerbridge Dayton. Tuition to the program is free.

Summerbridge participants come to Wright State every weekday for six weeks to take part in language arts, math, science, and social studies courses. “There is room for fun too,” explains Pat Jones, “with afternoons filled with electives like swimming, football, Spanish and yoga.” All classes are taught by high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in teaching.

This program is geared toward inspiring students to enjoy learning, while giving them skills for success in the future. It is also a place to make friends and build self-esteem. Additionally, the student instructors receive first-hand experience teaching.

100% of the first group of Summerbridge students have graduated from high school. One such student, Eboni White, will begin attending Wright State University this fall. Eboni participated in Summerbridge Dayton and later returned as a student instructor. She will be receiving a $2,500 scholarship to attend Wright State this fall. This scholarship was funded by the late Cornelius Martin, a Wright State alumnus and local philanthropist. In 2002, Martin generously gave $100,000 to fund scholarships for students who have participated in the Summerbridge program while in junior high and have opted to attend college at Wright State University. Pat Jones said, “It’s very exciting to have Eboni, someone who has done so much for the program, win this scholarship.”

Donations for Summerbridge Dayton are always welcome. To help with the program or to learn more, contact Pat Jones at 937-775-2174, or via e-mail at patricia.d.jones@wright.edu. Visit the program online at http://www.wright.edu/cola/outreach/summerbridge/home.htm.

---

**Summerbridge students attend a career fair at the WSU student union.**

**Summerbridge students at the 2005 Dayton Air Show.**
Congratulations to CoLA’s 2006 Outstanding Alumni!

The Recipients

Todd Tucky  
B.A., Anthropology, 1990

Katherine Rowell  

Tess Little  
B.F.A., Sculpture, 1975

David Vesely  
B.A., Classics, 1987

Suzanne Lindsey  
B.A., Communication, 1979

Adrienne Cassel  
M.A., English, 1991

Dorothy Smith  
M.A., American History, 1981

Betsy O’Ryan  
B.A., International Studies, 1993

Carl Anthony  
“Tony” Blau  
B.A., German, 1982

Steven Houser  
B.M., Music Education, 1973

Diana Dickinson  
B.A., Philosophy, 1986

Michael Wiehe  
B.A., Political Science, 1988

Susan Valiquette  
B.A., Religion, 1992

Brenda Haney  
B.S.W., Social Work, 1998

Marianne Fisher-Giorlando  
B.A., Sociology, 1979

Lenny Daniel  
B.F.A., Dance, 1989

Ronald S. Volkerding  
M.P.A., Public Administration, 2005
Tribute written by Dr. James Walker (Professor Emeritus, Political Science Department) to Dr. Robert Adams (Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Social Science Education Program), Dr. James Gleason (Retired Associate Professor of English), and to Mr. Fred Young (Former member of the WSU Board of Trustees).

It has been a cruel Winter in Ohio. There is mild weather but harsh news.

Three dead: Adams, Gleason, Young. All jewels in the Wright State crown.

**Bob Adams**, a founding member of the department, my mentor and friend is gone. In a time when the currency of royalty has been cheapened by the antics of faux gentlemen, Bob Adams was a true Prince. Integrity rested on him like an ermine cape, and noblesse oblige to him was not an empty phrase. He really did believe that his profession obligated him to serve the students before he served himself. In my last conversation with him he said the only pain he had felt during his illness was the knowledge of how much his wife and children were going through. The doctors had taken his leg, but he stood tall until the end. As he contemplated the difficult choices before him, especially regarding retirement, he said his entire life was bound up with the university. And so it was. And what will bind him forever to us, and to the university, is his devotion, and the legacy of service and teaching that lives on in his students.

**Jim Gleason.** Oh how I will miss that wheezy laugh and sardonic smile, that dead-on mimicry and those sparkling eyes. Few would describe Jim as a Prince, but I guess that the royal blood of Celtic kings coursed through his veins. He read everything, but more importantly he understood everything. Everything one needed to know about Wright State could be learned in the lunchroom from Jim Gleason. He called those in positions of power to task, but was not mean. He had empathy for their suffering, having himself gone through enough for two lifetimes. Jim lived the life of the mind, and I hope that in our world of McEducation, that legacy can be appreciated as well.

**Fred Young.** Former WSU board member, chair, advocate for Wright State in the community, devoted husband to Joyce, herself part of the Wright State family, state representative, judge, and the only Republican county chair I ever loved. He was easier to love sometimes more than others. The night Ronald Reagan won and we were both in the vote counting area, I didn’t love him so much as he jumped (literally) with joy. But over the years he taught me why I love politics and why so many of my students didn’t. They saw fewer and fewer men like Fred. He was a true Republican: conservative, prudent, frugal, protective of the environment, and most of all, a lover of freedom and human dignity. Thanks Fred.

Three dead in O-HI-O. A cruel Winter indeed.

Jim Walker

---

Thank you to the students in Dr. Ann Biswas’ COM 256 Basic Media Writing who collaborated with the writing of the stories for this newsletter.
STAY CONNECTED!

Please help us stay connected by updating your alumni record. Send us your “news” and updates.

Name _______________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________
City _____________________ State_________ Zip__________
Degree_______________________ Year ________
Spouse’s Name ________________________________
If WSU alum, spouse’s college _______________________
Phone (home) _________________________________________
(work) _______________________________________________
Email (home) _________________________________________
(work) _______________________________________________
I am interested in these volunteer opportunities:
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
Enclosed is my gift of $ _________ to be used for:
☐ Greatest need in Liberal Arts
☐ Scholarships in Liberal Arts
☐ Specific Department: _____________________________
You can also give online at:
https://www.wright.edu/php-bin/foundation/online_giving.html
☐ I am interested in other giving options. Please contact me at the number listed.

Send Us Your News!
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

College of Liberal Arts
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway
Dayton, Ohio 45435-0001