Summer Greetings! Life here at Wright State is going very well. We survived our first year of semesters with flying colors, having converted from the quarter system. No major mishaps. No major fallouts. The transition was seamless. And the gators (plastic heads really) are now patrolling the moat around the Hangar here in our courtyard, diligently keeping the geese at bay. I have named one Rocky.

I continue to marvel at the great things that are going on at Wright State and in the college. We had six Ambassador groups taking students to interesting places around the globe such as China, Germany, South Africa, France, Spain, and Japan, and the number of students studying abroad continues to increase. Travelling seems to be a theme as Tracy Snipe took his political science seminar class on the 13th Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage to important locations across the southern states fostering an understanding of civil rights issues past and present. The Wind Symphony, our top band, had a simply spectacular performance at Carnegie Hall bringing tears to my eyes. Director David Booth was so proud! Our fantastic and eclectic Percussion Ensemble, under Gerry Noble’s direction, played their hearts out at the Niu Valley Percussion Festival in Hawaii. And our award winning Model United Nations Team did it again this year – they won the Outstanding Delegation award at the recent annual conference in NYC, making it the 34th consecutive successful year. I am so pleased with the wonderful opportunities our faculty and staff facilitate for our students to broaden their understanding of important global issues and to see the world.

Students are also engaging with the community in a variety of hands-on service learning activities. Sean Pollock’s History class coached students at Thurgood Marshall High School in preparing their National History Day projects; Margie McLellan’s Community Development class conducted surveys and focus groups to help development of the new strategic plan for the Wesley Community Center; numerous students are tutoring children in area schools including Westwood and Meadowdale PreK-8; and we have classes working through the year with the Dayton Urban Ministry Center mentoring teen groups. I am so impressed with the involvement of our students and faculty within our communities, really living our motto of transforming the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

My family has now officially moved here from Maine, the three cats lived through the trip, barely, and we are exploring the area with our trusty GPS whom I call Lorraine. My husband and I purchased a home where the grass keeps growing and the screen door needs to be fixed – apartment living was much easier! Our two youngest children are enrolled in school for next year and seeking to make new friends. Our two oldest children are out exploring the world, one in Costa Rica and the other in San Diego. We are happy to call Dayton our new home, the Dragons and Reds our new teams (and the Raiders!), and to experiment with the great local restaurants and farmer’s markets. Happy Summer!
Model UN team again named one of the best at national conference


The team represented Italy and also had a seat representing India on the Security Council. Preparing their research since December, the team won the Outstanding Delegation award, making it the 34th consecutive award winning year of participation in the conference.

More than half of the 2,500 students at the conference were international students from 46 different countries. WSU delegates also won 6 position paper awards in their committees and attended a briefing with the Legal Adviser at Italy’s Permanent Mission to the UN.

The team is advised by Donna Schlagheck and Vaughn Shannon (Political Science) and is supported by the College of Liberal Arts.

To me, Jonathan Maze, Wright State’s Model United Nations (MUN) program is more than an academic challenge; it’s a life-changing experience. For the past five years, I’ve been fortunate enough to be a delegate on the team. Each year has brought various academic, social, and cultural challenges, all of which have helped shape and prepare me for life.

This year, I was partnered with Ethan Hall to be my junior partner on the United Nations Human Settlements committee or more commonly known as UN-HABITAT. When I first met him, Ethan was an 18-year-old freshman straight out of high school and I was a graduating senior. At first, I wondered how we would work together and from the onset of our first team meeting, I was impressed and wowed by my new partner. Ethan is an incredibly bright, talented, and driven individual with a maturity to match any senior.

As with any year, the rigors of our program are intense and this year was no different, except it was. Each year, every partnership has three topics to write for the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City. Sounds easy enough, right? Not even close! The continuous research coupled with the breadth of knowledge asked of everyone is simply awe-inspiring. Not to mention, the copious amounts of revisions that go into our papers are staggering, at best. This year was no different in that regard. Ethan and I worked diligently to produce the best paper, or in MUN terms, white slice, for the conference. Without a doubt, this year was by far the most challenging and rewarding MUN experience.

Early in the semester, Ethan asked to meet up and discuss things that were on his mind. I thought this was one of those meetings, like years past, where juniors want to see how they are fairing in class and what they can improve upon. Sadly, I was mistaken…

At the meeting, Ethan told me he was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness and that if his treatment failed, he would only have six months left to live. Talk about a jaw-dropping moment! At first, I was dumbfounded as to how a healthy, young college kid could have such an illness. It was one of those moments where you realize what truly matters in life - people.

One of the biggest testaments to Ethan’s character is his resilience and will to fight. Instead of being dismayed and wanting to quit the program, he pushed through it! Our motto for the Wright State MUN program is to Live Your Policy, and Ethan did just that. He kept moving forward in spite of the pain, constantly pushing himself to become a better delegate and individual. Not once did he lose composure or professionalism. In fact, it was just the opposite.

Moreover, Ethan wasn’t alone. Though our program is hard, we are without-a-doubt a family. When times get tough, we pull together and this was never truer. Throughout the experience, Ethan and I became better friends, and truthfully he has become a younger brother to me. The head delegates and faculty advisors who knew of his situation were without a doubt a rock to lean on. They were always there to encourage and provide support throughout this difficult time.

I can happily say that Ethan is doing much better and we both went on to the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City this past spring and took home three awards; Outstanding Delegation, Outstanding Position Paper, and Best in Committee!

I believe whole-heartedly the Model UN Program is a life-changing experience that will bring out the best of individuals both professionally and personally, and our story is just one such example.
Students Join Modern Languages Faculty for a Busy Summer of Study Abroad

Summer 2013 was a exciting one for the Department of Modern Languages! Six faculty led students on Ambassador Programs to China, France, Germany, and Spain.

Hail Du, Chinese Instructor, lead her third trip to 5 cities in China, making it possible for the students to climb the Great Wall in Beijing, immerse themselves in the Chinese language and culture in Dalian, closely watch the pandas’ daily life in Chengdu, visit the Terracotta Warriors, the 8th Wonder of the world in Xi’an, and tour the eye-opening GE Global Research Center in Shanghai. During each city visit, the students met and established lifelong friendships with local high school and college students.

Dr. Kirsten Halling, Associate Professor of French, and Pascale Abadie, French Lecturer and native Parisian, gave students an insider's knowledge of Paris: the Latin Quarter, the Louvre, architecture of the Haussman period, and monuments and museums dedicated to Revolutionary Paris. Students who interned in Bordeaux broadened their perspective on France through their stay in two very different geographical and cultural regions, resided with families and got to know high school students as they gave lessons on American culture and language.

Dr. Renate Sturdevant, German Instructor, planned a 17-day stay to include sites of historical, cultural and social significance: the concentration camp in Dachau; the “Disney” castle, Neuschwanstein in the Bavarian Alps; Mozart’s birth house and museum in Salzburg, Austria; the city of Augsburg with its oldest social housing still used today – the Fuggerei built in 1523. From a visit to the highest man-made tower in Germany, the Olympiaturm built for the Olympic Games in 1972, the students ascended the Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany, still with 6 feet of snow.

Jennie Buckwalter and Michelle Cipriano, Spanish Lecturers, led students to Madrid, Toledo, Ponferrada, Salamanca, and Segovia where the group explored Spain’s rich language, culture, and history through its gastronomy. Students participated in cooking demonstrations, lectures, film, and cultural exchanges with Spanish natives. Everyone had the opportunity to compare foods in a variety of settings--family homes, modern eateries, and historic restaurants. Museum visits, historical cities, a vineyard, the oldest university in Spain, and UNESCO world heritage sites rounded out the program.

In addition to studying the language, culture and history of the countries they visited, students learned much about themselves as individuals, group members and citizens of the USA. All trip leaders agree that the students were absolutely wonderful and Wright State can be proud of them. Many students said it was a 'life-altering' experience. The knowledge, experiences, friendships, and memories made during these programs will last a lifetime.

Congratulations to our ambassadors from Wright State University!
The Intern’s Memoir
by Alan Knowles
Student Writing Intern, CoLA Dean’s Office

I have been fortunate enough to be the first writing intern that the College of Liberal Arts (CoLA) has ever had, and it has certainly been a useful experience. It was the first time in my life that I have ever participated in a professional working environment, and certainly the first time that I have had colleagues who were as competent and helpful as the ones in the CoLA Dean’s Office.

The large majority of my work revolved around Wright State’s annual ARTSGALA. Anyone who has attended it would certainly deduce that a lot of preparation is necessary in creating something so extravagant, and they would be absolutely correct. I wrote letters to potential sponsors of the event and to donors for the silent auction, wrote descriptions for the donated items to be displayed during the auction, helped put together R.S.V.P. letters, attended all of the Host Committee meetings leading up to the event, and worked as an event volunteer. Of course, I was only the intern, so there were plenty of other tasks that I was not involved with.

The workload was sometimes a bit hectic with a full class schedule and a full-time job, but it was extremely beneficial. I not only got to put my education into practice, but I was also given a great networking opportunity. I met many potential employers whom I would have never gotten to meet without the internship; at the event I even got a few business cards and offers to meet and discuss my future!

The internship did, however, consist of much more than just helping with ARTSGALA. When I was first told about the position, I had assumed that the entire internship would be focused on writing, and though most of it did, the seemingly insignificant, “other duties as assigned” clause on the contract ended up being a bigger deal than we had initially expected. I got to do a lot of field work while writing articles for the 2013 CoLA Summer Newsletter, which included interviewing professors, staff workers, and students, and even attending various symposiums and other speaking events.

It was an honor to be chosen as the first student to intern as a writer for the College of Liberal Arts, and I sincerely hope that other departments follow suit. I could have easily gotten an internship with a local business, but being able to work professionally within an academic environment was an unprecedented experience. Every time I had a question about the material I was given, I could simply meet with or email a professor who was an expert on the subject matter. To have such tremendous assets at my disposal at all times was a perk that simply could not have been granted by a local business, and I am sure that other students will appreciate it just as much as I did if they are given the opportunity.

Wright State Fair Celebrates Literacy

The third annual Language Arts Fair was held at Wright State University Saturday, April 20, 2013 to celebrate English teachers and their good work with students. There were over seventy students, teachers, parents, and friends in attendance. Middle and high school students were represented from Dayton Regional Stem, Springfield City, Fairborn, Dayton Public, East Dayton Christian, and Springfield Catholic. All levels of Wright State students participated: undergraduate, graduate, and alumni. The day culminated with Shelley Pearsall reading from her young adult novels. Shelley’s newest book is Jump into the Sky, which is a historical novel about African American paratroopers during WWII. Her novels have won numerous awards.

Projects were stationed throughout first floor Millett. In addition to the middle and high school students, undergraduate education majors displayed literature response and multigenre research projects from their Integrated Language Arts classes with Nancy Mack, Sally Lamping, and Angie Beumer Johnson. Several student teachers invited students from their field placement schools. The entire crowd then moved to an electronic classroom to view slide shows, book talks, and videos made by high school and college students.

Many families attended to honor their students who all received certificates. This event was jointly sponsored by the English Department and the College of Education and Human Services. Wright State continues to have a strong presence with local teachers who implement innovative teaching strategies to empower their students’ writing and reading skills.
New Technology in Liberal Arts

The Wright State Theatre, Dance, and Music programs have been leading programs in the nation for quite some time. We are once again leading the way with box office technology that will bring us to current trends in the entertainment industry.

For the past year, we have been working to implement the Vendini box office management system under the supervision of box office manager Jamie Suttle. Since the inception of the theatre program at WSU, the box office has used a strict mailing system to provide patrons with tickets and season subscriptions. With an ever-growing fan base and subscriptions increasing every year, it was finally time for a more advanced system to service the valued patrons.

The new Vendini system will incorporate several different types of technology. Tickets will now all be purchased and tracked “in the cloud” with Vendini’s state of the art software that gives patrons access to show dates and times with the click of a mouse. Patrons will be able to purchase tickets from the comfort of their own home via the Internet using the WSU theatre and music websites, Facebook, and Twitter. Purchases will be able to be made using smartphones as well. Patrons will also be able to pick out their seat(s) of choice on the computer. Of course the purists can always visit the box office and make purchases in person and over the phone. All purchases are tracked real time so no duplicate seats can ever be sold.

Once a ticket is purchased, the patron will have the opportunity to “tweet” or send a Facebook message about their purchase – alerting all their friends and creating even more buzz for our incredible Theatre, Dance, and Music programs. A donation can be made via the website as well.

When the patron arrives for the concert or theatre production they will have their tickets scanned by ushers using Apple IPods that will communicate in real time with Vendini who has arrived for the show.

Another invaluable resource that Vendini will provide is very specific reports that will give the box office manager tools to better market and service the patrons.

Tickets should be available for purchase through Vendini this summer.

Look throughout the Newsletter for photos of Spring 2013 CoLA graduates
Letter of thanks inspires donor

A simple but moving letter of thanks inspired one Wright State University donor to increase his support for the university’s art program.

Jim McCoy provides financial support to an outstanding Wright State art student each year through the Joan W. McCoy Memorial Art Award. He recently decided to double the amount of the scholarship after receiving a thank you letter from recipient James Kidd. The letter brought tears to McCoy’s eyes—and still does when he reads it.

“He encouraged me to do it and he didn’t even know it,” McCoy said of Kidd.

The letter also helped McCoy to better understand how important it is to support Wright State students. “I didn’t realize how much it meant,” McCoy said.

Kidd wrote the letter after meeting McCoy for the first time over lunch. McCoy said he was impressed with Kidd and was moved by the tone of his words.

“For him to take the time to write a thank you letter of that nature was admirable,” McCoy said. “I think artists have a difficult time evolving and making a living, and here he was trying to do that.”

Kidd worked as an ecologist after receiving a degree in environmental studies from Evergreen State University in Washington State. He then was a stay-at-home dad for nine years. After he and his wife divorced, he enrolled at Wright State to study art. He raised his three children while pursuing his degree.

While he hopes to find success as an artist, he is more interested in being accessible to his children and being happy.

McCoy started funding an annual award to a Wright State art student about seven years ago. He has pledged to continue providing funds for at least the next five years and is considering including the scholarship in his will.

“Powerful connections between a donor and recipient can help make their philanthropy real,” said Kristin Sobolik, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “Whether it’s $500 or $500,000, donors can change somebody’s life.”

Kidd, who graduated in April 2013 with a B.F.A. and a concentration in sculpture, said McCoy’s generosity and support not only helped him financially, but also motivated him as a student and artist.

“I wanted to repay him through my hard work,” Kidd said. “I didn’t want to let him down.”

McCoy established the Joan W. McCoy Memorial Art Award in honor of his wife of 48 years, who died in 2003. Through the award, he supports various artists, art instructors and arts organizations.

An award-winning painter and potter, Joan taught art at Wayne High School for 30 years, and served as first docent at the Dayton Art Institute for six years. She received an M.A. in education from Wright State in 1977.

Jim McCoy, who is now retired, worked for a number of businesses in sales and management and started two companies. He started painting during an art vacation he and Joan took in Spain near the end of her life. Because he didn’t want to be stuck inside their hotel room while Joan was out painting with the other artists on the trip, he picked up a brush for the first time in his life.

After Joan died, McCoy went on a three-month camping and painting trip out West. During the trip he was inspired to celebrate her memory by establishing the art award.

“Her influence on me is so great,” he said. “It will benefit artists and their instructors for some time to come.”

In addition to the McCoy award, Kidd received an ARTSGALA scholarship and was recognized by the College of Liberal Arts as the 2013 Outstanding Senior in Art and Art History.

During the Spring Semester, he served as a Yeck College Artist Fellow at the Dayton Art Institute (DAI), where he mentored high school students. He has three pieces on display at the DAI this summer and has exhibited at the Dayton Visual Arts Center and in Wright State’s Senior Thesis Exhibition.

Combining his interest in environmental issues, his sculptures often incorporate wood and other natural elements with concrete and found objects. He continues to build his body of work in his home studio in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and is setting up studio space in Dayton.
Coming Home

Herb Dregalla comes back to the College of Liberal Arts.

After two and a half years in University Hall, Dr. Herbert Dregalla, has "come home" to the College of Liberal Arts as the Associate Dean for Students and Curriculum.

Herb came to Wright State University in 1998 as the Chair of the Department of Music. "Those were exciting years for me," Herb recently commented. "I got to play a part in the formation of ARTS GALA, CELIA, STEAM³ and a variety of other projects. We also had a great collaboration with the Music Department at the University of Dayton to celebrate the Centennial of Flight."

In January 2011, Herb was appointed Director of Semester Conversion overseeing all aspects of the Semester Conversion. "It was an amazing process," Herb said. "Every component of the university was affected. It put me in contact with a lot of very dedicated people. It was invigorating to be involved at that level and it gave me some real insights on how the university operates."

Then in August 2012, Herb took over as Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Students. In that position he served on the Council of Deans and oversaw offices in Academic Affairs, which included the Honors Program, Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC, Pre-college Programs, Service Learning, and others. Herb has also been Wright State's Accreditation Liaison Officer with the Higher Learning Commission, Wright State's main accreditation organization. Over the past year he guided several new programs through the accreditation process. For the past year and a half, he co-chaired the university's HLC Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning Steering Committee, an important component of Wright State's upcoming re-accreditation process with the HLC. Herb also worked as a liaison with the Ohio Board of Regents and was involved with several state-wide initiatives through that organization.

Herb says, "Although I enjoyed my time in University Hall, I have really enjoyed 'Coming Home' to the College of Liberal Arts, working with Dean Sobolik, Associate Dean Caron, and all the faculty, staff, and students in the college." "And" he adds, "I'll be able to once again attend ARTS GALA as I will not need to attend the HLC Annual Conference!"

Student Advisory Board

The College of Liberal Arts' Dean Student Advisory Board (DSAB) went through a complete overhaul this year, crafting a new constitution that focuses on serving students and working with faculty and administrators. DSAB President Jonas Kiessling and CoLA Senator Sukhmanjit Singh want to ensure that students are properly represented within the DSAB, so they have worked closely with the administration to assist in open advising days and further connect CoLA students with the DSAB. The DSAB also played an active role in the CoLA Dean search this past year and are delighted with the appointment of Dean Sobolik who is very student oriented and has attended multiple DSAB meetings. This past spring, the College of Liberal Arts and the CoLA Dean Student Advisory Board hosted the Human Trafficking Event, which served as a key reminder to our student body of how close these issues hit home and how to make a difference. Moving forward, the DSAB will continue to advocate, educate, and inform students about academic and social issues alike.

CoLA graduates express themselves head to toe!
Wind Symphony performs at Carnegie Hall

The Wright State University Wind Symphony reached a major milestone when it performed at one of the world’s most prestigious concert venues.

The Wind Symphony was invited to perform during the “Debut Series” at Carnegie Hall on May 12.

“Some say to play at Carnegie Hall is the musical equivalent of being at the Super Bowl,” said David Booth, D.M.A., Wind Symphony conductor, director of bands and professor of music.

The ensemble performed three pieces at Carnegie: “Aspen Jubilee,” by composer Ron Nelson; “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral,” a transcription of a segment from Richard Wagner’s opera Lohengrin; and “Words of Love” by composer James Mobberley.

Soprano Diana Cataldi, D.M.A., adjunct instructor of music, was the featured soloist in two of the pieces. “I believe all of us felt our hearts pounding with the awe-inspiring thrill of stepping out onto that famous stage for our performance,” Cataldi said. “It was a dream come true, an opportunity of a lifetime, and a memory I know each of us will cherish as a highlight in our musical careers.”

The Wind Symphony was invited to play at Carnegie Hall after a talent scout with Manhattan Concert Productions, which books acts for the venue, saw the ensemble perform two years ago at the Ohio Music Education Association state conference in Columbus. The trip was supported by Val P. Hattemer; Kristin Sobolik, the College of Liberal Arts dean; the Department of Music; and the provost’s office.

Forty-six students participated in the concert. The performance has boosted the students’ confidence, Booth said, and will increase the prestige of both the wind ensemble and Wright State’s music program. “I don’t think the Wind Symphony will ever be the same after this trip. I think it’s fundamentally changed now,” he said. “There’s a legacy that future students now have to live up to.”

Josclynn Garrison, a senior and principal bassoonist of the Wind Symphony, said that playing at Carnegie Hall was a great honor and an exhilarating opportunity. “This means the world to the Department of Music as well as the university,” said Garrison, who is president of the Wind Symphony Leadership Council. “Our reputation as a school is growing and this growth is being noticed in a great way. It is nothing but up from here. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for this program!”
Dr. Marjorie McLellan, Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Affairs and Geography, has been involved in a wide array of successful service learning projects for Wright State.

“I came to Wright State because they offer so many public, community oriented programs,” she explained. She was initially a professor of History at Wright State as well, but community activism drew her to Urban Affairs. “I chose public over history,” she continued, “and I’m happy with that decision.”

McLellan taught two courses with service learning projects during the Spring Semester. When asked why she incorporates service learning projects into her courses, McLellan said that “teaching others reinforces the knowledge we have learned. Our students are given the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real situations.” She went on to explain that, like learning a foreign language, submerging oneself into the field is often the best means of learning.

Wright State is heavily involved with one of its service learning partners, Westwood PreK-8, an at-risk school in Dayton. Wright State students participating in the service learning project at the school directed an exercise called, Reimagining Westwood, Past, Present, and Future. Part of the activity asked the schoolchildren to draw a map of their ideal community, and the majority of them included a large grocery store somewhere in their drawing, a commodity that Westwood is not fortunate enough to have.

“Westwood is an urban neighborhood facing major challenges; K12 students and residents are often looking to get involved but they need greater economic opportunities to do so,” McLellan said. “This partnership has a very direct impact on the program and our students. Wright State has a long-term stake in Westwood.” The Westwood 8th graders also advocated students' need to feel safer in their neighborhood while high school students worked on the issue of gun violence.

At Wright State, service learning projects are attached as components of courses, so the students who sign up for these courses know what they are getting themselves into. “The service learning requirement often presents scheduling challenges,” McLellan said. “All of our students have to work around class schedules, but they also have jobs and family lives as well. It can be difficult.”

Finding time for the service learning projects may not be easy, but McLellan and her students continue to make sacrifices for what is not only a beneficial experience, but certainly a fruitful endeavor as well.
Stephen Hampton graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor of Music Degree.

While studying music at Wright State, Hampton met his wife, Jamie, a design/technology major in the theatre department. Upon graduation they both moved to Anchorage, Alaska. Hampton knew that he wanted to write music and be in the recording business.

In Anchorage, Hampton played a solo acoustic guitar in bars, clubs, and restaurants while writing music for local commercials and small films. For larger projects, he traveled to Seattle to record music. While producing an album in Los Angeles in 1984, Hampton met the owners of Admusic, who offered him a job as a staff writer for national TV commercials. In 1996, Hampton and partner John Adair purchased Admusic. By 2004, they had branched out into film work and renamed the company Emoto Music. They sold Emoto in 2011 but still consult for the company on music for TV commercials.

Hampton has composed scores for several television series, including Just Shoot Me and Last Comic Standing. His work can also be heard during national commercials for such notable clients as Walgreens, Nike, and Isuzu. One of the standout projects of his career was composing a fanfare for Wright State University, which debuted at the 2007 inauguration of President David R. Hopkins. "It was really cool that it was for Wright State," said Steve. "I got to go there and hear it played. That was a definite thrill for me."

You're So Dumb, You Probably Think This Book Is About Getting Slapped

William Irvine is a philosophy professor by day, but he has an unusual sideline: He's also a collector of insults. Irvine has gathered some of his favorite jibes into a new book called A Slap in the Face: Why Insults Hurt — And Why They Shouldn't.

Irvine tells NPR's Audie Cornish that one of his favorite masters of insult is Winston Churchill. "Nancy Astor [said] to Winston Churchill, 'if you were my husband, I would put poison in your coffee,'" Irvine says, to which Churchill replied, "If you were my wife, I would drink it."

Irvine's book might sound like basic self-help, but it has a distinctly academic bent. He has researched history, human evolution and even himself. "I was very attuned to insults other people were doing, and I started hearing my own insults," he says. "They're very subtle. You don't even know you're doing them, but if you replay conversations in your head, you realize you said things. And if you think about your motivations for saying them, you realize you were trying to put somebody down on the social hierarchy."

Why are people endlessly compelled to insult each other? It turns out that insults serve as a kind of social currency, allowing people to move up and down that hierarchy through a deft turn of phrase. "A hundred thousand years ago on the savannahs of Africa, if you were a solitary individual, you were dead very quickly," Irvine says. "So you joined a group. And then, once you joined a group, the question of how well you succeeded within that group was determined by your social rank within that group."

Striving for rank within a group, he continues, has become ingrained in the human psyche — praise and deference feel good, and public insults feel terrible. "We have that wired into us," Irvine continues, "and the argument philosophers would make is, if you want to have a good life, you have to overcome that evolutionary wiring." In fact, he says, there are many things hard-wired into us by evolution that we'd do better to ignore — for example, the fondness for sweet, fatty foods that may have helped early humans survive but leaves us prone to overeating in the modern age of plenty.

Irvine says that when he told his friends he was collecting insults for a book on the subject, many of them, of course, insulted him. "And my standard response was, 'Do you know how dangerous it is to insult a man who's collecting insults to put in a book on insults?' Since the book came out, I've had friends who've approached me and said, 'That isn't me on Page 91, is it?' And I would always assure them that it wasn't, but yes, they were the guinea pigs for this experiment."
Alumna’s latest book included on Oprah book list

Oleander Girl, a new book by Wright State University alumna Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, has been recommended by Oprah Winfrey’s Book Club as “One of 16 Books to Get Lost in.”

Oleander Girl is the story of an orphan teen raised by her grandparents in India who finds the love she always searched for. But her plans are disrupted when a family secret is unearthed.

Divakaruni is an award-winning author, poet and teacher of writing. Her work has been published in more than 50 magazines, including The Atlantic Monthly and The New Yorker, and in more than 50 anthologies. Her books have been translated into 29 languages, and several of them have been bestsellers, both nationally and internationally.

Born in Kolkata, India, Divakaruni came to the United States for her graduate studies. She received a master’s degree in English from Wright State in 1978 and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

She teaches in the nationally ranked creative writing program at the University of Houston, where she is the Betty and Gene McDavid Professor of Creative Writing.

Divakaruni is the recipient of an American Book Award, two Pushcart Prizes, two PEN Syndicated Fiction Awards, the C.Y. Lee Creative Writing Award and the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Prize, and she has been chosen for the Woman of Achievement Award, the Woman of Vision Award and two National Excellence in Teaching Awards.

More information about Oleander Girl is available at Divakaruni’s website.

Alumna Susan Deluca offers unique course on Strategies in the Workplace

“Strategies in the Workplace” (aka COM 4710) is a unique course offering WSU students tools to make them more effective at landing and excelling at jobs in the Communication field. Taught by WSU graduate and former NY Times VP Susan Deluca, the course aims to make students ready for the workplace environments that exist now and prepares them to change as those environments change.

Professor DeLuca uses the Myers Briggs Personality Test to help students assess how they approach situations in the workplace and what their own preferences are, which can help them make choices about jobs to seek and those to avoid. Students are given strategies to increase their adaptability, help them adjust to team building and to recognize relationship frameworks. The focus of this course is on practical tools rather than theoretical concepts; students are taught about goal-writing, time management and planning. At the end of the course they submit a transition plan that they develop throughout the course, both individually and in team sessions.

Many of the students taking the course have been in the workforce for a time and need to learn leadership skills. The course is offered in the evening to suit working students as well as traditional students who are about to begin their post-college job searches. Professor DeLuca gives students interactive, practical assignments that help them feel confident and let them know their own worth and be able to communicate their strengths to potential employers as they interview for new positions or seek to advance in their current situations. Drawing from years of experience in business, instead of from a textbook, Professor DeLuca thinks that the skills she teaches should be universal and hopes that many more students will discover the class and the advantages it will bring them in the workplace.

This was a another fantastic year for CoLA, and we are very proud to announce that 53% of our faculty and staff pledged over $54,000 in this year’s campaign to benefit student scholarships and important program activities. Overall, WSU employees generously contributed $400,459 to this campaign.
**KEEP CALM AND SPEAK**

**High School Foreign Language Fair, Wright State Lake Campus**

How do you keep close to 400 excited high school students calm? Immerse them in a full day of language activities! On February 25, 384 students of French, German, and Spanish met for a full day of language immersion, “Keep Calm and Speak,” at Wright State University's Lake Campus in Celina, Ohio. The Northwest Ohio high schools represented were: Botkins, New Knoxville, and Wapakoneta of Auglaize County; Coldwater, Marion Local, and St. Henry of Mercer County; and Hardin Houston of Shelby County.

Students participated in mini-workshops on Spanish Ojo de Dios, tango dancing, the Russian Cyrillic alphabet, Chinese paper folding, German battleship, German Guess Who games, Spanish worry dolls, gestures and body language in Latino cultures, a multi-language Jeopardy culture quiz, Patois - Jamaican language and culture, the French Eiffel Tower, and the art of French crepe making.

Practice tests gave participants an indication of their potential placement in language courses at the university level.

Led by Kathy McClain and fellow Mercer-Auglaize Foreign Language Alliance (MAFLA) founding member and retired German teacher Linda Schwegman, foreign language teachers from Allen, Darke, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties became active in MAFLA and the Foreign Language Fair.

The MAFLA Foreign Language Fair is “a way for local high school teachers to promote student interest in studying a foreign language through all four years of high school, and continuing that study at the university level,” says Ellen Hecht, German teacher at Coldwater High School and co-coordinator of this year's event.

The MAFLA Foreign Language Fair at WSU's Lake Campus succeeded yet again in promoting a love for studying world languages, and making students more aware of the benefits of language skills for college studies and in the work place.

**Beloved Broadway Composer Stephen Schwartz visits Wright State**

Stephen Schwartz, renowned composer of acclaimed productions such as *Godspell*, *Pippin*, and *Wicked*, visited Wright State in March 2013 as part of the first program in the university’s new Distinguished Visiting Artist Series.

The visit included a sold-out performance by Schwartz, Tony Award winner Debbie Gravitte and award-winning vocalist Scott Coulter in the Creative Arts Center’s Festival Playhouse.

Schwartz conducted master classes with students March 19, while Gravitte and Coulter gave workshops for students on March 18.

The Distinguished Visiting Artist Series is sponsored by Wright State’s Center of Excellence for Collaborative Education, Leadership and Innovation in the Arts. The series brings to campus artists for residencies featuring immersive interaction with Wright State and area arts students and professionals, as well as performances and exhibitions.
Many college students have aspirations of studying in a foreign country, but anyone who has even attempted to learn a second language knows that there is a steep learning curve involved in such an endeavor.

Wright State regularly promotes its diverse student body. Of course, having a multinational student body means coping with multilingual barriers, so accommodations must be made.

Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes (LEAP) is a WSU program dedicated to helping foreign students develop the skills necessary to succeed in an American University. There are four levels, each allowing students to increase their ability to read and write in English, but speak and listen as well.

“I had studied English for four months in my country,” said Zeinab Albadrani, a WSU student from Saudi Arabia, “so I still had trouble with it when I came here.”

She explained that the most difficult part of studying in a different language was keeping up with the professors. “LEAP teaches how to listen to English lectures. In level four we got to sit in on lectures with American students, so we learned to deal with professors and classmates.”

Jeannette Horwitz, director of the LEAP program, says that students are able to test out of LEAP, but the initial findings of a recent study show that students who do so have a lower average GPA than students who finish all four levels.

“Tests can’t give a taste of what the American classroom is really like. LEAP does that,” she explained. “We aim to reduce the culture shock that these students experience when they come to America.”

As for Zeinab, the LEAP program has had just that effect. “I am really thankful for the LEAP professors,” she said. “They have helped me a lot and I am glad that I finished the program. I may still have to visit the writing center sometimes, but I am able to learn a lot from the helpers every time I do.”

Zeinab is currently working toward her B.A. in Education. She plans to return to Saudi Arabia and teach early childhood education.

**WSU Alum gets Greenlight for TELETOON Canada series**

**Eric Jacobson** (1980, Motion Pictures) and Betsy McGowen are the co-creators of *Camp Lakebottom*, an animated comedy for six to 11 year-olds which premieres Saturday July 13 on Disney XD in the US. *Camp Lakebottom* can also be seen on multiple global Disney channels in the UK, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South and Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Canada, and Australia.
**Degree Focus: International Studies**

**What Is International Studies?** No, it’s not the study abroad office or the office to assist international students…International Studies (IS) is an inter-disciplinary major for those who recognize that the world is a complex place—and for those who seek to find their place in it. Over the last ten years, the major has quadrupled in size at Wright State…what’s the appeal?

**It’s Not a One-Size-Fits-All Major.** With the assistance of the program director, IS majors tailor a rigorous program of study to their own interests, which can span the arts and humanities, social and physical sciences, and business. Majors select one of six tracks (based on their academic interests and career goals): Diplomacy and Peace Studies, Area (or Regional) Studies, Comparative Cultures, International Economic Affairs, International Gender Studies, Research Intelligence Analyst.

**Se Habla Español.** Or Chinese, Arabic, German, Japanese, Russian, Italian, or French…IS majors stand out from the crowd by devoting themselves to at least three years of a foreign language (and many of our students go on for intensive language acquisition because they know its value).

**So, What Can I Do with a BA in IS?** WSU grads with the IS degree are working in the private and public sector, in governmental and non-governmental organizations or using their BA in Liberal Arts as the foundation for law and other graduate degrees. They are working as Foreign Service officers for the US Department of State; as community educators in the Peace Corps and in AmeriCorps; as research analysts at the United Nations Population Fund; in the US Department of Homeland Security, the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) and in other agencies at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. They are promoting human rights worldwide through the British charity Oxfam; leading anti-human trafficking campaigns for the Polaris Project; assisting Darfuri refugees for Catholic Relief Services; and working as Congressional staffers…just to name a few.

**Interested in Learning More?** Contact Dr. December Green, Director of International Studies (december.green@wright.edu or 775-4817).

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**From the Office of Liberal Arts Academic Advising - Message to Students**

- We have made it through the first fall and spring semesters; the transition period is over! However, many students may still have both quarter and semester versions of their Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS). Keep this in mind and be sure that you are now viewing the semester DARS only. You can select the correct DARS by clicking the drop-down menu next to “Advisor Reviewed Audits.” If you have questions stop by during walk-in hours, e-mail, or schedule an appointment to see your CoLA advisor.

- Avoid putting your financial aid in jeopardy! Undergraduate students with 12 or more attempted semester hours must maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP). You must maintain a cumulative GPA of **2.0 or higher**, complete at least **67%** of your cumulative attempted credit hours, and you must complete your program of study within **150%** of the timeframe required to earn your degree. See the SAP Policy on the Raider Connect website: [http://www.wright.edu/raider-connect/loans-scholarships-and-grants.academic-progress](http://www.wright.edu/raider-connect/loans-scholarships-and-grants.academic-progress).

- All students seeking to earn a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in CoLA must complete a sequence of courses in a foreign language through 2020. This is usually accomplished in 4 semesters so **start early**!

Contact the CoLA Advising office at (937) 775-2601
Student Artwork on Display in CoLA Dean’s Office

Stop by 163 Millett Hall to see these and other unique pieces of artwork by our very own Art students.
CONGRATULATIONS are in order for our talented colleagues!

CoLA Faculty and Staff Award Winners:

Carl Brun; Social Work, CoLA Outstanding Professional Service
Joe Deer; Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures, CoLA Faculty Excellence
Haili Du; Modern Languages, CoLA Outstanding Lecturer/Instructor Award
Amira Ben-Amer Hollingsworth; Modern Languages, CoLA Outstanding Adjunct Award
Crystal Lake; English, CoLA Early Career Achievement
Sally Lamping; English, CoLA Outstanding Community Engagement
Nancy Mack; English, CoLA Outstanding Teaching
Susan Paul; Admin Support, CoLA Outstanding Staff Award
Stefan Pugh; Modern Languages, CoLA Outstanding Research

WSU Professional Development Awards:

Ksenia Bonch-Reeves; Department of Modern Languages; Archival Research of Medieval Spanish Chronicle Manuscripts
Joe Deer; Department of Theatre, Dance, & Motion Pictures; Musical Theater Direction and Choreography at London's Central School of Speech and Drama
Tracey Steele; Department of Sociology & Anthropology; Correctional Officer Management of Inmate Sexuality

University Awards:

Joe Deer; Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures
        Trustees’ Award for Faculty Excellence
Haili Du; Department of Modern Languages
        Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence: Outstanding Instructor
Judith Ezekiel; Women's Studies Program
        Faculty Diversity Advocate Award, Division of Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement
Crystal Lake; Department of English Language and Literatures
        Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence: Early Career Achievement
Sally Lamping; Department of English Language and Literatures
        Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Awards, Division of Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement
Judson Murray; Department of Religion, Philosophy and Classics
        Honors Teacher of the Year
Stefan Pugh; Department of Modern Languages
        Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research
CONGRATULATIONS are in order for our colleagues who were awarded promotion and promotion/tenure by the Board of Trustees on April 26.

Promotion to Professor:
Matthew Benjamin, Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures
Angela Beumer Johnson, English Language and Literatures
Ava Chamberlain, Religion
Teressa McWilliams, Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures

Promotion to Senior Lecturer:
Brady Allen, English Language and Literatures
Jeannette Horwitz, English Language and Literatures
Cynthia Marshall, English Language and Literatures
Sarah McGinley, English Language and Literatures

Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure:
Franklin Cox, Music
Judson Murray, Religion
Opolot Okia, History
Nicole Richter, Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures
Gina Walther, Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures
Sean Wilson, Political Science

CoLA Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to the 2013-2014 recipients of the highly competitive CoLA Leadership and Study Abroad Scholarships, the WSU Foundation Board of Trustees Scholarships and The Marcia G. Muller Study Abroad Scholarship. All award recipients were selected by members of the CoLA Dean’s Leadership Board:

CoLA Leadership Scholarships
Benjamin Geist, Music
Kseniya Maksachova, Sociology
Stephanie McCain, Social Work
Kyle Yoho, History

CoLA Study Abroad Scholarships
Francisco Cronin, Spanish
Macklin Everly, International & Comparative Politics
Kaitlin Flamm, Anthropology
Taylor Floyd, International Business/French
Eric Fyke, Philosophy
Christina Kuykendall, Anthropology
Daniel Lauro, History
Gwen Simonalle, French

WSU Foundation Board of Trustees Scholarships
Paige Dobkins, Acting (Musical Theatre)
Karli Lightner, Communication Studies

The Marcia G. Muller Study Abroad Scholarship
Nathan Cardenas, German/Spanish

Learn more about these accomplished students at www.wright.edu/cola/news/features.html
Outstanding Student Awards 2013
Outstanding Seniors 2013
Georgia Fenton, Anthropology
James Kidd, Art and Art History
Talya Flowers, Communication
Emilie Fillion, Criminal Justice
Christine Haney, English
Amanda Phillips, Geography
Eastman Klepper, History
Emily Little, International Studies
Ian Snapp, Liberal Studies
Nathan Cardenas, Modern Languages
John Seaton, Music
Hope Houston, Philosophy
Tina Porter, Religion
Caitlyn Banis, Political Science
Heather Webb, Social Science Education
Sherry Greene, Social Work
Shawn Rolfe, Sociology
Nicole Wetter, Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures
Zachary Moore, Urban Affairs

Outstanding Graduate Students 2013
Rebecca Cantrell, Applied Behavioral Science Program
Dani Eller, English
Casey Hugel, History
Crystal Whetstone, International/Comparative Politics
Michelle Burdine, Master of Humanities
Jackie Anderson, Master of Public Administration
Stacy Russell, Music
Michael Peters, Women’s Studies

We are pleased to announce...

Mr. Dan Craighead
joined the Liberal Arts
Dean’s Office staff in
February 2013 as Business
Manager. Dan brings 28
years of experience over-
seeing financial operations
and budgets.

Dr. Jacquelyn Bergdahl
Associate Professor
of Sociology, will be the new Director of the
Applied Behavioral Sciences graduate program
starting August 15, 2013. Jackie has been a
long-term member of the core ABS program
faculty since 2001, was Interim Director for
the winter and spring quarters in 2006, teaches
courses in the program, and oversees thesis projects.

Valerie Stoker
will be the new Director
of the MA in Humanities Program
starting August 15, 2013. Valerie
is an experienced member of the
Humanities program and has
taught a number of courses for
the program and in that area. She
was also the Director of the Liberal Studies Program
from 2008-11. Valerie is a successful scholar who
was recently awarded a National Endowment for the
Humanities Fellowship in 2012-13 for her work on
Polemics and Patronage: Vyasatirtha and the 16th
Century Vijayanagara Court, following on a Profes-
sional Development leave for 2011-12.

Jennifer Buckwalter
was promoted to
Assistant Dean for Community and Student
Engagement in the CoLA Dean’s Office on
July 1, 2013. Jennie will continue to serve as
Lecturer II of Spanish in Modern Languages
where she recently enjoyed co-organizing
her first ambassador program to Spain. As
Assistant Dean she will organize the college’s
successful ARTSGALA fundraiser, the
CoLA Donor Recognition Ceremony, and
ArtsFair. She will also oversee the Dean’s Leadership Board,
numerous fundraising initiatives, scholarship recipients, and
the bi-annual CoLA Newsletter. Jennie will increase her
involvement with CoLA communication venues, broad-based
college scholarships, and internships.
An Early Success

by Alan Knowles
Student Writing Intern
CoLA Dean’s Office

Joshua Lisec graduated from Wright State in 2012 with a B.A. in Organizational Communication, but while most students were worrying about what they would do after graduation, he was busy drafting his first novel, The Phoenix Reich.

The Phoenix Reich is a novel about Max, a young college student, and his experience with a global conspiracy involving the remnants of the Nazi campaign.

“When readers meet Max at the beginning of The Phoenix Reich, this college kid doesn’t have much going for him,” Lisec explained. “In the process of learning the truth about his father’s death, he uncovers an international conspiracy intended to resurrect the spiritual arm of Hitler’s empire.”

Lisec stressed that Max is no common adventure hero, but rather a victim of circumstance. “What excites me most about The Phoenix Reich is that the readers have a front-row seat to the development of a true hero. I think the desire to become something greater than what you’ve always known is a longing that people can relate to, especially college students.”

The Phoenix Reich is the first of at least three books in the Max Meyers Adventure series. Lisec is already working on the second and third and he wanted to extend his gratitude to the faculty at Wright State for molding him into a writer that is capable of doing so much.

“I am grateful to the faculty and staff of Wright State University for ensuring a top-notch education and their undying dedication to supporting me in the development of my skill set,” says Lisec.

If you want to hear more about The Phoenix Reich and Josh’s journey as an author, visit his blog at http://joshualisec.wordpress.com.
WSU Celebrates National Poetry Month

April was National Poetry Month and the English Department made sure that poetry was in the spotlight right up to the end of the semester. Led by department chair Dr. Carol Loranger, the department organized many events, including Favorite Poem Fridays, where the community could share poems that personally moved them with other poetry fans; a public reading by Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, Poetry Editor of the literary magazine African Voices; and a Night of Poetry at Books & Co where faculty and friends of WSU read their original poetry.

To raise awareness about the celebration, the English department offered “Poems in a Pocket” to anyone who wished to share poetry with others and buttons saying “I (Love) Poetry.” Dr. Loranger says that it is important to celebrate poetry, to read it and share it with others, and she tries to be a model for this, although she is not herself a poet. Her reason is quite simple: “I love it.”

Once again, Wright State's annual ARTSGALA offered patrons a night of unparalleled entertainment. On April 6, hundreds of talented arts students were on display throughout the Creative Arts Center and over 630 guests were treated to a dizzying array of food and fun. This year's event raised over $170,000 that will provide crucial scholarship support for students in art, music, theatre, dance, and motion pictures. In its 14-year history, ARTSGALA has raised over $1.5 million dollars in scholarship support for many talented arts students. They are the future of arts, culture, and entertainment both in our community and beyond.

Mark your calendars now for ARTSGALA 2014:

April 12, 2014

www.wright.edu/artsgala
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Please help us stay connected with you! Send your news and updates to:
liberalarts@wright.edu

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See more photos, network with your college community, share news fast.
Click on the link below:
CoLA FACEBOOK

Support the College of Liberal Arts!
Please consider a gift to support the College of Liberal Arts programs and students. Give online at:
www.wright.edu/cola/give_cola

ENJOY THE ARTS AT WSU!
Come enjoy the fine and performing arts at Wright State!
Click on the photos for the calendar of events for WSU’s music and theatre performances as well as art exhibitions. Don’t miss the great entertainment!

Art
Music
Theatre

PURCHASE WSU PHOTOS
Visit the Wright State University Photo Store!
Wright State fans, alumni, and friends now have the chance to own a piece of Wright State memorabilia.

Professional images from university events, campus life, and campus scenes are available for purchase both online at www.wrightstate.smugmug.com and in the Photography office in 013 Dunbar Library. For more information please call (937) 775-4567.

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For more information, contact Photography and Video Production at (937) 775-4968 or email chris.snyder@wright.edu

Round Dance mobile artwork suspended in the Millett Atrium by Tim Prentice