Each Fall, the department of art and art history furnishes the dean’s office with new student artwork. Artwork on display is created by art majors who were selected for talent scholarships.

The Dean welcomes you to stop by the office and view these masterpieces as well as additional pieces on display!
Fall Quarter 2010 began when Wright State hosted the 2010 Regional Summit, "A Region on the Rise," on Wednesday, September 1. President David R. Hopkins and the region's business, political, community, and university leaders discussed how higher education can partner with the community to create jobs for our region. Presentations focused upon WSU’s National Center for Medical Readiness, the Dayton Area STEM School and CoLA’s own CELIA, Collaborative Education, Leadership and Innovation in the Arts.

As classes began it became clear that the university had reached its highest enrollment in our 43-year history - 20,000 students. CoLA faculty and staff understood this directly as we managed to add the majority of additional class sections and seats to accommodate the increase in students. This year’s increase indicates the growing strength of Wright State University. Enrollment increases were not uniform in state universities in Ohio and suggest WSU’s reputation for quality and value in higher education.

In his Fall Convocation address President Hopkins announced this year’s theme: *Our Legacy of People, Our Tradition of Excellence*. As we settled in to the fall term the faculty and staff of CoLA demonstrated once again how we exemplify exactly the values of our president’s theme. On top of the regular day-to-day responsibilities of offering classes for all our enrolled students the faculty and staff completed the colossal task of converting all our programs and courses to the semester format. We are the largest college with the most programs and the most courses. We were the first college in the university to complete this curricula conversion. In late Fall our new semester programs were the only college programs to be approved by the Faculty Senate. This is the clearest of examples of a tradition of excellence in serving the needs of future students while at the same time working with current students. As Dean I am so proud of this legacy of the people who make CoLA a special place to work.
Starting college as an incoming freshman can be both exciting and daunting. To help make the transition to college more smooth and enjoyable, each fall Wright State offers freshmen the opportunity to be a part of a Learning Community (LC). Each LC consists of 20-25 students who are enrolled in many of the same classes and who take one common class designed to teach them all about campus programs and services and how to be successful in their college careers. This common class, University College 101 (UVC101), or Liberal Arts 101 (LA101 – for students with a Liberal Arts major), offers students tips on smart studying techniques, time management skills, and how to cope with stress. It also helps students discover resources on campus designed to help them succeed, and it gives them time to get to know each other better and form a tightly-knit community. Students in these LC classes tend to make friends faster, adjust to college faster, and earn a higher GPA than students who do not participate in a LC. They are also more likely to stay in school.

For more information about Learning Communities, contact catherine.queener@wright.edu or University College at (937) 775-5750

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“In the LC class, I felt more at ease to ask questions about campus and every day college life. As a new student, I was able to easily make friends in my LC. I would never have been able to feel so comfortable at Wright State as a new student without the help of my LC. Plus I know I did better in my classes because of the study groups I was able to form and my newfound confidence as a college student.” --- Heather Casto, BA History, 04

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Celebrating Diversity in the Classroom

This fall, Learning Communities instructors Jennifer Buckwalter and Melissa Janosek-Smith, teamed up to form a unique and fruitful collaboration with Jeannette Horwitz and Amber Crawford-Idell, instructors of LEAP, Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes. LEAP students come to WSU from all corners of the world, and this year’s group included students from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, China, Iraq, Taiwan, Egypt, Korea, Thailand, Libya and Japan. Four times during the quarter, each Learning Community class paired up with a LEAP class to give the students an opportunity to interact. This provided an amazing opportunity for the Americans to learn about other cultures different from their own. It likewise gave the LEAP students a chance to learn more about American life and culture as well as practice their English language skills. At the end of the quarter, all four classes joined together for a celebratory party. The American students and the international students agreed that this was a rewarding and eye-opening experience that will provide benefits to them well into the future.

American and International students learn the art of Tai Chi.
STEAM3, a new course for art and music education majors at Wright State, incorporates the creative arts to teach science and mathematics. The class combines the STEMM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine with art and music.

The idea originated when Edgar Hardy, a former chemist and former director of research for the Monsanto Company in Dayton, approached Herb Dregalla, chair of the Department of Music, about creating a project or program that combined visual arts, music, and science. Over the past ten years, Hardy and his family have become patrons of Wright State’s Department of Music, funding a variety of scholarships and programs. Although Hardy is not a musician, he has an active interest in music and the visual arts.

After Dregalla discussed the idea with Linda Caron, former chair of the Department of Art and Art History and now associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Charles Taylor, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the current STEAM3 class began to take shape.

“In using art and music to help students become engaged in science, STEAM3 represents university education at its imaginative best,” said Taylor. “No discipline is by itself sufficient for understanding our complex world nor does any speak effectively to every student. Each contributes uniquely to the advancement of human learning.”

Ben Montague, assistant professor of art and art history, and Bill Jobert, instructor of bassoon and assistant director of bands, taught the first STEAM3 class in Fall Quarter 2008. “Neither of us had a background in science or math, so there was a lot of learning to do,” said Montague.

Montague and Jobert selected four art education majors and four music education majors to create a three-day interdisciplinary unit that would be taught to local elementary or middle school science or math students. To help students discover the connections between art, music, science, and math, Montague and Jobert asked them to create a list of commonly used terms in each area and discuss the similarities.

“In the months prior to teaching our math, music, and art unit, I learned a lot about how much these subjects have in common. I was truly surprised,” said art education major Kim Link. “It was very rewarding to help the students discover the commonalities between math, music, and art.”

In the second year of the course, Dr. Ann Farrell from the Mathematics and Statistics Department joined the teaching team. Dr. Farrell brought with her a keen sense of mathematics and experience working with math teachers in workshops for improving math education. Along with Farrell, four math/science majors were added to the course enrollment. The three-person teaching teams were able to work from the start on building interdisciplinary units.

Now in its third year, the STEAM3 course is expanding with presentations at conferences and education events. The teaching trio is designing teacher in-service workshops to give teachers the information presented in the course in an intensive format. No longer is STEAM3 seen as an experimental course to get education majors to understand interdisciplinary teaching, but as a way for school districts to get the arts involved in core academics.

As the STEAM 3 course grows, Jobert is excited about the program. “It’s that college class that I imagine when I think about college,” Jobert says. “You go in and there’s discussion and everybody contributes.”

As for the future of the STEAM3 program at WSU, Dr. Dregalla says “Farrell, Montague and Jobert have expanded the initial concept in some exciting new ways. I believe the methods developed and used in STEAM3 have the potential to make a major impact.”
THESE GRADS ARE GOING PLACES

Ernest (Jack) Smith, WSU Honors in English 1978 and M.A. in English 1980, is Director of the Honors Program at Northern Kentucky University. Dr Smith has also taught at the University of Central Florida for nineteen years, and researches and writes about twentieth century poetry and culture.

“My Honors career has come full circle,” he notes, “from undergraduate Honors Program student to Honors Program Director.” NKU opened in 1968 and enrolls about 15,000 students. “We have nearly 600 students in the Honors Program, from nearly all majors. Honors Program students know how to communicate effectively, in both writing and speaking, and they know how to conduct research. A good number of our students travel internationally.”

“I loved the Honors experience at Wright State,” Dr. Smith continues. “The classes were taught by some star faculty, and some were team taught. I completed an undergraduate project on American poet Walt Whitman under Dr. James Hughes’s direction.” Dr. Smith praises Honors learning, adding that at NKU’s program, “We tell our students that learning to be a responsible citizen goes hand in hand with academic excellence. We’re privileged to be working with tomorrow’s leaders.”

College of Liberal Arts alumna Monaqui Porter-Young has truly made the world her stage! Since graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre in 1994, she has expanded her horizons and deepened her understanding of what it really means to be a citizen of the world.

Monaqui is a creative entrepreneur who is involved in ventures that take her around the world. She has nine years of experience as a working actress, playwright, and producer of television, film, and theater. Monaqui wrote, produced, and performed her one-woman play, Hope, off Broadway, nationally at college campuses, and internationally. She has worked on several films including the HBO original movie Rebound.

Monaqui is also an entrepreneur. She is President and CEO of MPGlobal Connect Inc., an import distribution company that offers organic green tea, nutritional health and educational information. Monaqui is also launching her own brand of tea, Srina.

In addition to her degree from WSU, Monaqui also studied business and nutrition at Pace University’s School of International Trade and Commerce, the Institute of Integrative Nutrition, and Teachers College of Columbia University.

A frequent presenter of workshops and classes to diverse audiences, most recently she was a guest speaker for the United Nations International Women’s Day in Bangkok, Thailand, where she spoke on strengthening international relationships among women.

We’re pleased to announce that Monaqui will share her experiences as the luncheon speaker for the 2011 Honors Institute Symposium. Her topic, “My Journey: From Wright State University to Sri Lanka,” will chronicle her success. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. For more information about attending the Honors Institute and the Symposium, please visit http://www.wright.edu/academics/honors/institute/2011.

Monaqui currently lives in New York with her husband Marlo and their three children.
For the past year, **Morgan O’Brien** served as Special Assistant to the late Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Ambassador Holbrooke served in this capacity from early 2009 until his death this December. During the course of the year, Morgan and the rest of the Ambassador’s staff maintained a rigorous travel schedule, visiting dozens of countries to support our efforts in the region and all over the world.

Morgan graduated from Wright State’s International and Comparative Politics program in 2007 and became a Foreign Service Officer in June 2009. He counts himself as “incredibly fortunate” to have served as Ambassador Holbrooke’s assistant. The job took him everywhere from the UN in New York to the US Embassy in New Delhi. In the first seven months of 2010, Morgan went on five trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In September 2010, Morgan began language training at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Va., where he’s concentrating on French for his next assignment. In April 2011, he will begin his tour in Brazzaville, Congo, where he will be the consular officer during a two-year assignment.

Morgan looks back fondly on his time at WSU, saying that his master’s degree “was a critical component in setting me up for this opportunity.”

Ambassador Holbrooke, who was an important figure in the Dayton region due to his involvement with the Dayton Peace Accords of 1995, passed away on December 13. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is honoring Mr. Holbrooke by naming the Hope Hotel’s Conference Center in his memory.
It was a dark and stormy morning in 2005 when Bob Riordan, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, received an email from the Curator of Archaeology at the Ohio Historical Society (OHS). She wrote to invite him to conduct his next Field School in Archaeology, the class in which students learn how to excavate sites, at the Fort Ancient earthwork in Warren County.

Fort Ancient is the largest hilltop enclosure built by people of the Hopewell culture (c. 100 BC - AD 400), and is today a National Historic Landmark site. Published accounts of it date back to at least 1809. Today it is administered by the OHS as a state park; since 2009, the management of the site has been conducted by the Dayton Society of Natural History.

The reason for the OHS invitation was that in 2005 an access route across 6 acres of open field was needed to get trucks filled with stone back to one of the embankment segments that was being subjected to severe erosion. Non-invasive remote sensing techniques using magnetometry and electrical resistivity were then employed to ensure that undetected prehistoric features would not be destroyed by the movement of trucks across the grass. The remote sensing data unexpectedly revealed that traces of an unknown circular enclosure were present below the surface. There were also data signatures that might indicate prehistoric house floors, pits, posts, and even a second, smaller possible enclosure. The result was that the dump trucks never got to cross this acreage!

The field research has been continued by Wright State field schools every summer since 2006. Riordan named the circular feature the “Moorehead Circle” to provide it with an identity separate from the Fort Ancient earthwork. The name honors the memory of Warren K. Moorehead, the first archaeologist to conduct professional excavations at Fort Ancient between the years 1888-91.

After five field seasons at the site, the Moorehead Circle is considered to have been built as an important element in the ritual life of its Hopewell builders. Although exactly how it was used remains unclear, there is some evidence that its construction may have included some significant astronomical alignments. The summer solstice sunrise, for instance, can be seen appearing in one of the gateways in the Fort’s embankments when one stands at the Circle’s Central Feature and looks east.

To date, three of the students who have been involved in the fieldwork have used their experience in writing their MA theses. In late October, the first professional symposium on the site was presented at the Midwest Archaeological Conference. Among the twelve archaeologists presenting papers were Riordan and five former students from the WSU Anthropology program. The national press has also become interested in Wright State’s work at Fort Ancient. In 2009, a feature article appeared in American Archaeology, and in 2010 the National Geographic Society featured the work on its website.

Work will continue at Moorehead for several more summers. Student applications for the 2011 season can be picked up from the Sociology & Anthropology Department’s office in January. Visitors to Fort Ancient will be welcome to watch the excavations during late June through early August.
First Women’s Center Monthly Donation Scores School and Art Supplies for Ongoing WSU Partnership

This summer, the Office of Service-Learning and the Women’s Center partnered to help fill the need for school materials and art supplies at Westwood PreK-8 School. The Women’s Center, interested in starting a regular monthly donation cycle for area nonprofits, chose Westwood as its first donation site because of the university’s four-year partnership with the school. Westwood PreK-8 School is located in a low-income neighborhood on the west side of Dayton. When Wright State and Westwood started their partnership, the first action was to start a tutoring program because Westwood is a school in academic emergency. This fall, over 100 Wright State students, the majority of whom were enrolled in classes, tutored and did special projects with students at Westwood.

On August 28, over two dozen departments and individuals donated crayons, art pencils, glue, markers, stickers and more for the first-ever Women’s Center Monthly Donation. Westwood PreK-8 School teachers and students were excited for the many new supplies, which have already been put to use.

The Women’s Center continued its Monthly Donations throughout the Fall Quarter by collecting toiletry items for the Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County, children’s board books for Michael’s House, and used sheets and towels for the Humane Society of Greater Dayton. Winter Quarter donation sites are currently being selected. Women’s Center Monthly Donations occur on the last Friday of the month, and all are welcome to participate.

For more information about the Women’s Center, visit:

http://www.wright.edu/admin/womensctr/

Cocoa for CoLA

On November 10th, the College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Student Advisory Board (DSAB) held a Cocoa for CoLA Meet and Greet where students had the opportunity to enjoy steaming hot chocolate while discussing questions, comments and concerns about CoLA. A few familiar faces from the CoLA DSAB were present; Baylee Butler, Brandy Zapata, Daniel Rhodes, Anthony Kremer, Sarah Gross and the CoLA Senator, Jamie Plamondon all conversed with the students while serving cocoa. A variety of students attended to drink hot chocolate and write down a few things they liked about the College of Liberal Arts. Many students highlighted the benefits of the Model United Nations Team as well as the immense diversity within the college.

The Dean’s Student Advisory Board hopes to hold another Cocoa for CoLA event in Winter Quarter, so keep your eyes open!
Sprechen Sie Deutsch (Do you speak German)? This was the theme this past Friday for the Wright State University Department of Modern Languages German Immersion Day. “This was an extraordinary milestone in the history of the German Program as it was the very first of its kind!” said Jacob Hellickson, a senior German major who co-chaired the Immersion Committee. “We began planning last November and were so ecstatic to see the fruits of our labor!” noted Hellickson.

Almost 90 German students from Archbishop Alter, Beavercreek, Centerville, Coldwater Exempted Village, and Springfield High Schools took part in the event. Dr. Elfe Dona, Associate Professor of German, stated the German Program will make this an annual event that will include local German clubs, such as the Dayton Liederkranz-Turner Society.

FRENCH

On November 5, 2010, Wright State French faculty and students opened their door to advanced French students and their teachers from high schools in Ohio to celebrate French Immersion Day or La Journée d’immersion française. Seventy-eight students and 8 teachers from Columbus to Cincinnati arrived and were immediately immersed in activities that celebrated this year’s theme of biological diversity. The French Club officers and members, French majors and minors, as well as students in beginning and intermediate classes and other Francophiles assisted in making the theme come to life.

Ice breakers, music videos, small group activities and drama skits explored the impact of biological diversity at home and abroad. Students learned the choreography to a current French pop song and performed it during lunch, à la Flashmob; they learned about the top endangered animals and that the biggest threats to endangered animals are loss of habitat, pollution, and hunting; they even honed their sense of taste and smell during a chocolate tasting of chocolates from Francophone country producers. The closing activity consisted of one-act plays put on by each school; the first scenes were written by WSU students in FR 321, Advanced Grammar and Composition, with surprise endings added by the high school students.

SPANISH

On Friday, October 22, 2010, Wright State University’s Department of Modern Languages hosted Spanish Immersion Day for high school students. Over 160 students and teachers from eleven different schools participated; some traveled two hours to attend the event!

Throughout the day, the students enjoyed a wide-variety of activities en español. They practiced Latin dancing, made crafts traditional to Mexico and Guatemala, met Hispanic artist Rebecca Nava Soto, and much more. The students received a t-shirt, candies from Latin America, prizes and they tried pan dulce (Mexican sweet bread). The day ended with the fantastic folk group Rondalla de Puerto Rico performing traditional Puerto Rican songs and dances!
The College of Liberal Arts celebrates the significant generosity of a true friend of the college who, in his quiet and gentle way, will help transform the lives of students for years to come. Because of his love of literature, his opportunities to interact with WSU students and faculty, and his commitment to his fellow students, Mr. Frank Dion recently established and endowed the **Kathleen Louise (Pfister) Dion Scholarship** in English, in memory of his beloved wife.

Mr. Dion, a retired civilian employee of the Air Force since 2000, has audited at least one class per quarter since then, primarily from the English department. In addition to regularly supporting annual scholarships sustaining English students, he’s used those opportunities to discuss a wide variety of books with Wright State students and faculty. The Kathleen Louise (Pfister) Dion Scholarship will be used to encourage the study of English at Wright State University and to recognize a top upper-class English major.

Mr. Dion is originally from Connecticut. He received his degree in English from the University of Connecticut. He served in the U.S. Army as a Russian interpreter, and later came to Dayton to work at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. In response to questions about why he’d chosen to support our English department and students in this compelling way, he commented that he could never repay WSU for the opportunities that had been extended to him to continue his love of learning.

Recipients of the Kathleen Louise (Pfister) Dion Scholarship will be junior English majors with a 3.5 GPA in their major, and a 3.0 GPA overall. Particular consideration will be given to those students who have demonstrated their passion for English through their participation in such student organizations as the English Club, Fogdog editorial staff, student NTCE (Northern Territory Certificate of Education) or in department sponsored events and courses.

We celebrate Mr. Frank Dion, a champion of language and scholarship for Wright State University.
Rich Bullock’s first-year writing program in the Department of English received one of three 2010 Association of General and Liberal Studies (AGLS) Exemplary Program Awards on October 8, 2010, at the association’s national conference in Austin, Texas. The AGLS, organized 50 years ago, "serves college and university faculty and administrators who teach, lead, and manage programs of general education or liberal studies” and recognizes "creative program accomplishments produced by general education faculty and administrators committed to ongoing improvement," and showcasing "effective program improvement ideas and models, especially as institutions prepare for accreditation visits."

Per Dr. Bullock, Michael Gress, AGLS Past President, “liked our program's long-term commitment to assessment and improvement” and the fact that “like a piece of writing, a course or program is never finished, but changes to reflect the changing needs of those involved, and to keep improving, to help more and more students learn more and more and write better and better." Professor of English and Director of Writing Programs, Dr. Bullock credits support from administration, the College of Liberal Arts, English department chairs, and “faculty who teach in the program and contribute far more than required to its constant improvement.”

Dr. Bullock’s application has been posted on the AGLS website as a model for others. More information on AGLS and the award may be found at:  http://web.oxford.emory.edu/

CoLA Celebrates Its Generous Friends and Talented Students

On November 14, the College of Liberal Arts hosted its annual donor recognition ceremony at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Center in downtown Dayton. Over 200 people enjoyed this opportunity to recognize and honor important contributors to the college as well as acknowledge this year’s 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. Attendees wrapped up the evening with an enjoyable Holidays in the Heartland concert featuring Wright State University’s Department of Music choral and instrumental ensembles.
**CoLA announces the new Chair of the History Department**

**Carol Engelhardt Herringer** has been teaching in the history department at WSU since the fall of 1999. She came here after completing a Ph.D. in history at Indiana University. Prior to entering graduate school, she taught English in Belize, Central America; worked in corporate America, and worked in undergraduate admissions at Manhattanville College. She received her B.A. from Boston College in English and history and her M.A. from Washington University in literature and history.

Professor Herringer traces her passion for history to the Engelhardt family vacations in the 1960s and ‘70s. “We traveled all over the United States,” she recalls. “We often camped in the national parks.” Her parents ensured that historical sites were a part of every trip, and while the Engelhardt children sometimes protested any overtly educational components, they all grew up to be fascinated by history. These family car trips were the perfect venue for talking about religion and politics as well as history, so Professor Herringer learned early on how to look for facts and structure an argument.

Professor Herringer’s research focuses on Victorian religious and cultural history. She is currently working on her second book – a project that is proceeding more slowly now that she is chair of the history department. However, she welcomes the challenge and the perspective that her new position brings. In particular, she praises the other College of Liberal Arts department chairs for helping her learn this new job. She is pleased that the history department is thriving: the faculty have recently revised the curriculum in anticipation of the conversion to semesters, applications to the graduate program are very high, and the faculty continue to balance effective teaching with research and publication. “The history department is a wonderful department,” she concludes. “The faculty are dedicated to both teaching and research, and I thoroughly enjoy my conversations about both topics with my colleagues.”

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**CoLA Welcomes Sara Woodhull**

**Sara** is the new Director of Development for CoLA. She came from KeyBank where she was a Treasury Management Advisor selling Cash Management services to businesses in the Dayton area. Prior to that, she was a Director of Development for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Dayton.

Sara is a native Daytonian and lives in the Kettering area with her husband, Clyde Esch. She has been very involved in the arts community in Dayton, serving on the board of The Dayton Ballet for 9 years and most recently, sits on the Board of Involvement Advocacy. Involvement Advocacy’s main project is called Blue Sky, an artist in residency program that involves Dayton’s youth for 8 weeks during the summer.
Writing a book about a crime spree that resulted in the death of a sheriff’s deputy was something that Wright State University journalism professor Jeff John felt compelled to do, but when a modern day crime came between him and the publication of the book, John sat up and took notice.

John and co-author, Dr. Frank Johnson Jr., DVM, son of the Honorable Frank Johnson, presiding judge at the Greene County trial of the criminals arrested for killing the deputy, decided to write the book together following discussions about the case. The resulting book, *A Bird in the Hand: Story of Ambiguous Justice*, about the 1940s case, is being published this fall by Clay Bridges Communications & Publishing in Troy.

The book gives a nonfiction account of the Ohio crime spree that began when Earl Tucker and Ernest Evans decided they wanted to visit one of Evans’ former girlfriends, who lived in Ohio. Tucker claimed he was just along for the ride and although he was convicted, he was exonerated twenty years later in the death of the deputy and freed. Meanwhile, Evans was convicted, became an exemplary prisoner, and was allowed to work at the governor’s mansion. Evans became friendly with Gov. James Rhodes and was given an early release from prison in 1967. Evans subsequently died.

“The trial made for great reading and writing,” said John, who went to work for the *Xenia Gazette* in 1974 and knew many of the writers and editors mentioned in the book.

John is a Dayton native, graduating from Chaminade Catholic High School in 1969. At Bowling Green State University, he earned a bachelor of science degree in magazine journalism. His first job took him to Cleveland, where he became editor of a trade magazine that produced articles about the magazine print field. Subsequent jobs at local newspapers helped him get his feet wet as a journalist, but he credits his job at the *Xenia Gazette* with really teaching him the craft of journalism.

“I’m a motorhead, who still loves to tinker with mechanical things,” said John, who worked as editor of *American Motorcyclist* for two years before accepting a public relations position at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus in 1978.

In 1980, John returned to school and earned a master’s degree in visual communications at Ohio University.

John accepted a position as a journalism instructor in the Wright State University Department of Communication in 1988 and began working on a Ph.D. at OU. Meanwhile, his wife Karin Avila-John works as an administrator at the University of Dayton. The couple have triplets, who graduated from Bellbrook in 2010 and currently attend the University of Dayton.
Life is a journey full of choices. Last summer ten Wright State students chose to participate in the South Africa Study Abroad Program led by Jennifer Subban, Associate Professor, Urban Affairs, to implement a leadership-training program for high school students in South Africa. Dr. Subban was moved by these students’ determination to fundraise for the significant money needed to participate in this program.

It was clear that they held individual motivations for participating in this project. For some it was the connection their ancestry. As Rebekkah Mullholland indicates in her blog, “I am in South Africa! Finally. It was an easy decision to decide to go but getting there was a struggle that was worth everything it took to get me there. Still looking around the vibrant airport my eyes go back to that black man and woman and they said to me, ‘Welcome home sister.’ My heart swelled with so much emotion at their words and my eyes filled with tears as their words sunk in.”

Other students were stepping out of their comfort zones and into an unknown experience that tested and led them to deeper understandings of themselves and society. They strove for a freedom that can only be actualized by leaping into the unknown. They embraced challenges to their worldviews. Immersion in a different culture allowed them to test academic views and theories. They yearned to be inspired by the gift of giving themselves to a community in the hope that they would somehow make it better. And they did. And it made them better.

Transformations began even before the group connected with the South African students. Amanda Turner wrote, “Before leaving the states, I felt that I barely knew the other people on this trip. We were a little less than strangers. But last night, walking into our kitchen, I knew them. I recognized smiles and the feel of their embraces. It felt so good for someone to be excited to see me, to need no introduction, to be familiar.”

During the study abroad program, WSU students empowered South African high school students to assess their communities and implement service projects to enhance them. Over a two-week period the WSU students prepared and conducted a series of workshops. Topics included: leadership, communication, community mapping, creative thinking, project planning and evaluation.

The training session ended with the implementation of a service project facilitated by the high school students. Informal settlements are communities that survive devastating poverty, debilitating health issues, and economic instability. They are vibrant communities where in order to thrive, one must be innovative and self-determined. The community service project exposed members of two informal settlement communities to solar cookers. Students discussed the value of using solar cookers, demonstrated their use and presented participating families with a solar cooker. The project was so successful that additional community groups approached us about training them to use the cookers in order to continue the trend.

The change and community building continues. Before embarking on this journey Calandria Dawson knew that she wanted to serve others, that her life mission was to create positive change. Her participation in the study abroad program proved to herself that she was strong and could overcome adversity and difference. She was excited to be accepted as a member of the Peace Corps after returning from this trip.

On the last day working with the high school students, a teacher from one of the schools organized a student presentation. That alone was emotionally moving and an apt demonstration of their leadership abilities. One student remains in the minds of the Wright State students. This particular student was very reserved. Throughout the weeks, they saw glimpses of her spirit, like sunshine through clouds. During the graduation ceremony, she stood in front of nearly eighty people and read a speech. In this speech she told the WSU group that she now felt confident that she could help to better her situation and her community. That she had, indeed, loved participating in the training and valued the friendships she had made.
...I sat in my usual seat in the back of the taxi, gazing out of the window and studying the unfamiliar world surrounding me. Throughout the whole city of Durban, young children in uniforms walked to school carrying their books in their little hands. A man using a burlap sack as a blanket lay on the ground, sound asleep, while the busy streets overflowed with honking cars and buses. On the corner of the sidewalk, a young woman with a tired face sold bright yellow bananas...

This little rectangular window in the back of the taxi was my new, temporary set of eyes, my new way of seeing things, my new “lens” through which I learned to observe the world. I became accustomed to obsessively staring out of this window as if it were some kind of screen projecting a strange film I had never seen before. I watched it with the eyes of a child, the eyes that see everything for the first time...

On this particular day, we were to meet the South African students for the first time. I squinted in the presence of the early morning sunlight, making note of its strength and expansiveness. Everything is different here, I thought. Even the sun is different. Looking around the courtyard, I noticed large stones spelling out the letters “USA” and “WSU” and “WE LOVE YOU.”

On the way to Zwelibanzi High School...

(Read the rest of Megan Hague’s journey in “I Am, We Are: The Experience of Ubuntu” here: Megan’s Experience)

If you were to visit the Dayton Regional STEM School and happen to run into a student who greets you with “Ni Hao” (“Hello” in Chinese), please don’t feel startled. This is normal practice between the faculty, staff, and students. The faculty, including Principal Dr. Brian Boyd, will often ask the Chinese teachers to teach them new Chinese greetings and other expressions so they won’t feel left behind. The STEM School is the only school in the area offering Chinese for grades eight through ten.

你好！

(Ni Hao)

Twenty-two sophomores in the school are taking Wright State Chinese language courses as part of the Dual Enrollment Program to earn college credit while still in high school. These students are using WSU Chinese textbooks and syllabi provided by the Department of Modern Languages. These students will finish the language through the first year of Chinese at WSU and start second year in 2011. Meanwhile, all the ninth graders are using WSU Chinese textbooks to prepare themselves for college-level Chinese study.

The STEM School’s faculty teaches Integrated Chinese (the textbook provided by WSU) with other subjects to apply Chinese to science, math, social studies, health, and art. Currently, the language students are designing a package using Chinese art and characters for a puzzle cube being developed in science and math classes. The STEM School’s art class has made rice paper and brushes for Chinese calligraphy. In social studies, students learn about early Chinese immigration. In health class, students learn the theory of acupuncture and Tai Chi. As Lily Chen (one of the Chinese teachers) commented, the “Chinese language program, like all the other subjects, is truly relevant to the students.”
This fall, Wright State’s theatre program partnered with the Human Race Theatre Company to present *August: Osage County*, a play by Tracy Letts. Running September 23 through October 10, this work was the winner of five Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. *Time Magazine* called it the “best play of the decade.” Among the cast was Scott Stoney, longtime resident artist with the Human Race. Stoney was one of seven professional actors in the cast, including two understudies from the Broadway production. Also featured were six WSU students, making the ensemble a truly well-rounded group with a wide range of experience.

The play contains a mix of humor and drama, and it centers on a dysfunctional family with a dark history of mystery, crime and psychological issues. In the Festival Playhouse production, local media outlets praised the performances of the entire cast, including students Jason David Collins and Kelsey Hopkins, as well as the elaborate set designed by Pam Knauert Lavarnway. Dr. Stuart McDowell, chair of the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures, said students called the collaboration “a life-changing and career-affirming event.”
Come enjoy the fine and performing arts at Wright State!

Below are links to the calendar of events for WSU’s music and theatre performances as well as art exhibitions. Don’t miss the great entertainment!

Stein Galleries: [http://www.wright.edu/artgalleries/current.html](http://www.wright.edu/artgalleries/current.html)

Music: [http://www.wright.edu/music/events/index.html](http://www.wright.edu/music/events/index.html)

Theatre: [http://www.wright.edu/tdmp/](http://www.wright.edu/tdmp/)
Join us for a weekend of fun! (You don’t have to be a WSU grad to participate)

**Rowdy Gras** - Join us in the McLin Gym of the Nutter Center for a New Orleans Style Monte Carlo night. Friday, February 4, 2011: 7 pm - midnight. The cost is $10 for Alumni Association members and $15 for non members and guests. The price of admission gets you $3000 in playing chips and 2 drink tickets. There will be many different games of chance, great food, live band and the opportunity for some great prizes at the end of the evening.

**College Outstanding Alumni Awards Brunch** - Berry Room, Nutter Center - Saturday, February 5, 2011: beginning at 10 am. Join us as we recognize outstanding alumni from each college at a brunch in their honor. These graduates are established in their fields and some of the best and brightest that Wright State has to offer. Cost is $15 for all but the honorees. This year's CoLA honoree is Ann Weisgarber, Social Work, 1976.

**Blast from the Past College Party** - Join us before the men’s basketball game in the McLin Gym of the Nutter Center. Saturday February 5, 2011: 5 -7 pm. All alumni are invited to attend this family friendly party where we will celebrate alumni from the WSU classes of 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001. Come back and renew old acquaintances from your school or college and meet new friends. Join us for pregame activities that include the spirit units, music, games and lots of great food. Cost is free for class year honorees (and one guest), $10 for alumni association members and $15 for others, and includes one drink ticket plus a ticket to the basketball game.

To register for any of these events call the office of Alumni Relations at (937) 775-2620 or visit us online by clicking here → REUNION
STAY CONNECTED!
Please help us stay connected by updating your record. Send your news and updates to:

Wright State University
College of Liberal Arts
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001
or
liberalarts@wright.edu

Name ______________________________________
Address ____________________________________
___________________________________________
City _______________________________________
State_________________________Zip____________
University___________________________________
Degree_________________________Year_______
Spouse’s Name ______________________________
Spouse’s University ___________________________
Preferred Phone (home/work/cell) ____________________________
Preferred Email _____________________________

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☐ I am interested in other giving options. Please contact me at the number listed.

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CoLA departments get into the Raider Spirit for Homecoming 2010

Department of Social Work,
Carole Staruch and Dr. Carl Brun

Department of Sociology and Anthropology