

Alumni Association

The Wright State Alumni Association represents more than 100,000 alumni living across all 50 states and in 75 countries.



2015

Annual Report





2015

Annual Report



About the Wright State University Alumni Association

The Wright State University Alumni Association was founded in 1971 with the purpose of fostering a fellowship of individuals who share a common institutional interest and developing a sound collegiate heritage by coordinating activities and services which contribute to the academic, cultural, and physical growth of Wright State University.

Over the past four decades, Wright State University has awarded more than 100,000 degrees to more than 100,000 alumni who have benefited in many ways from the alumni association. Since 1994, the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship program has been providing tuition assistance to students pursuing their Wright State University degrees. These scholarships are intended for the children and grandchildren of our alumni to continue the growth of our institutional heritage. The Wright State University Alumni Association is a member of the Wright State University Foundation's Robert J. Kegerreis Society. Named in honor of Wright State's second president from 1973 through 1985, society members have contributed more than \$1 million. The Wright State University Alumni Association was recognized with the prestigious Inventing Tomorrow Award in recognition of their 30 years of continuous support and philanthropy to Wright State University.

The Alumni Association is governed by a board of directors, consisting of 21 volunteers who give their time and talents and participate in a variety of alumni and foundation events and programs. This group also works with volunteers on planning social events and bringing alumni together.



VISION

The Wright State University Alumni Association engages alumni in support of the university through a shared commitment to higher education and global impact.



Robert J. Kegerreis

MISSION

The Wright State University Alumni Association will foster and develop pride, prestige, and partnership among alumni, students, and community to promote the value of education and our legacy.



Letter from the President

It's an exciting time to be a Wright State alumna!

The Alumni Association continues to grow. We have seen record numbers of alumni attending the many events sponsored by your Alumni Association.

The *RISE. SHINE. Campaign* is in full swing and we were able to visit alumni around the country sharing the great stories of the success of our students and alumni. As a result of our efforts, we have had strong support for the campaign effort.

As you review our annual report, you will see the many accomplishments that were achieved in 2015. 2016 promises to be an even better year. There are many events planned that are creating great enthusiasm among current students and alumni. These include the campus visit of Tom Hanks in support of the *RISE. SHINE. Campaign* and Wright State hosting the first Presidential Debate in September.

Your Alumni Association will be updating our strategic plan in 2016 to ensure that we are on track to continue our success as an organization. This success is only accomplished through the support and engagement of our alumni.

Whether you're around the corner or halfway around the world, as one of more than 100,000 alumni of Wright State University, I encourage you to engage with your Alumni Association. We are so proud of your successes in your chosen careers, service to your community, engagement with our students, and philanthropic support.

On behalf of the entire Alumni Association Board, I want to express my appreciation to you for your support of the Alumni Association. We look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our mission of fostering and developing pride, prestige and partnership as we promote the value of education and our legacy.

Deb Downing

Deb Downing '81, President



Deb Downing '81, President

100,000+

Wright State University
alumni





Letter from the Executive Director

This past year was the best in our history in terms of alumni engagement and support for Wright State. Our total event attendance increased by more than 1,000 people. Individual events like Homecoming saw a 100% increase in attendance. Giving by alumni increased by more than 30%.



Greg Scharer, Executive Director

In 2014, the Association made the strategic decision to make all alumni members of the Association and discontinue membership dues. We aligned more closely with the university and Wright State Foundation to direct that financial support to the academic mission of Wright State and its students. This coincided with the public launch of the RISE. SHINE. Campaign and the Association's role in the campaign's regional events.

The RISE. SHINE. Campaign raised more than \$15 million in fiscal year 2015 with more than 40% of that coming from alumni. So far in this campaign we've raised \$126 million of our \$150 million goal, and roughly 23% of that comes from our generous alumni. That is more than a 400% increase of the alumni giving during the last campaign.

2015 was a great year for us at the Association; I hope you'll join us in making 2016 even better!

Greg Scharer
Greg Scharer, Executive Director

RISE. SHINE. Campaign
raised | \$15 million



40% RAISED FROM
alumni

Staying Connected

Phone 937-775-2620
 Email alumni@wright.edu
 Facebook facebook.com/WrightStateAlumni
 Twitter twitter.com/WrightStAlumni
 Linked In linkd.in/JKMRa7
 Instagram instagram.com/wrightstatealumni

In person Foundation Building – Third Floor
 By mail 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, OH 45435
 Online wrightstatealumni.com

Staff Greg Scharer | Executive Director
 Holly Gersbacher | Associate Director
 Nick Warrington | Assistant Director
 Nicole Crow | Assistant Director of Alumni Marketing & Communications
 Kathy Kuntz | Office Services Coordinator
 Ann Alger | Records Technician
 Sandy Hunley | Business Manager
 Brigitte Gardner | Graduate Assistant

Alumni Association Board of Directors*

President | [Carolyn Wright, '73, '78](#)
 Vice President | [Deb Downing, '81](#)
 Secretary | [Tony Alexander, '88](#)
 Treasurer | [Bob Reynolds, '88](#)

Karey Dufour, '12	Andy Platt, '09
Cheryl Garrett, '83	Penny Proffitt, '94
Bob Grote, '76	Anne Marie Singleton, '91
Pat Jones, '01	Rick Smith, '84
Pat Koogler, '75, '80	Kelli Tittle, '06
Jason Lansdale, '00	Woody Willis, '83
Stacey Lawson, '94, '96	TyKiah Wright, '00, '01
Angel Lewis, '89	
Chris Moyer, '85, '86	

**The above list represents the 2015 Alumni Association Board of Directors*



Karri O'Reilly '94

Karri O'Reilly '94 graduated from Wright State with a degree in Motion Picture Production. O'Reilly has been involved with the production of more than 100 feature and short films, TV shows, and commercials, including her most recent film productions, "Goat," a film in competition at Sundance this year, and "Carol," a 2016 nominee for the Academy Award for Best Picture.



2015 By the Numbers

Events

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS

2015	2014	2013
186	172	211

Event Attendees	First-time Event Attendees
2015 9,530	2015 1,642
2014 8,141	2014 901
2013 7,672	2013 409
2012 6,642	2012 315

Networks & Societies

- 2015 > 19
- 2014 > 19
- 2013 > 17
- 2012 > 14
- 2011 > 12
- 2010 > 8

Social Media

- Facebook**
2015 > 9,074 2014 > 8,392 2013 > 2,445
- LinkedIn**
2015 > 7,251 2014 > 6,900 2013 > 6,287
- Twitter**
2015 > 1,612 2014 > 1,280 2013 > 772
- Instagram**
2015 > 621 (new in 2015)

Volunteers

- 2015 > 245
- 2014 > 245
- 2013 > 210

COMMUNICATIONS

- 322 E-MAILS SENT TO 2.38 MILLION ALUMNI RECIPIENTS
- 15% OPEN RATE ON E-MAILS
- 4 QUARTERLY POSTCARDS SENT TO 249,000 ALUMNI
- 2 MAGAZINES SENT TO 160,000 ALUMNI HOUSEHOLDS
- 40,000 UNIQUE VISITORS
[56% OF THOSE ARE NEW VISITORS, 204,000 PAGE VIEWS]



The Wright State Alumni Association represents more than 100,000 alumni living across all 50 states and in 75 countries.





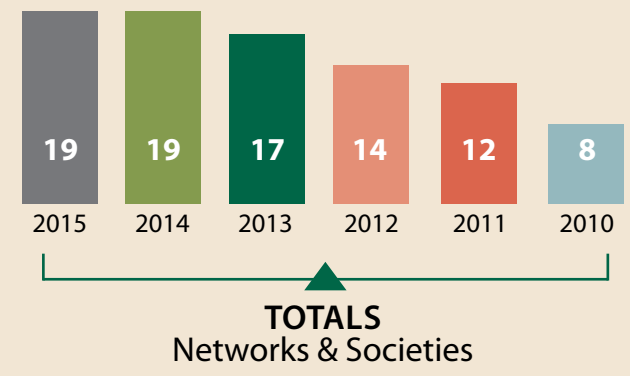
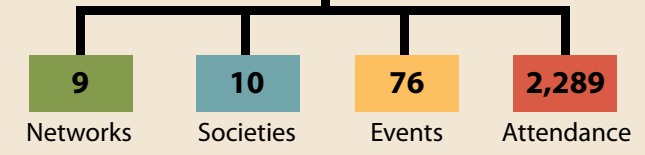
Networks & Societies

The Wright State University Alumni Association Network and Society programs exist to provide assistance and support for the continuing success of Wright State University. By offering responsive programs, diverse activities, and services, they enrich the camaraderie among Alumni Association members.



Alumni gathered at the Los Angeles Night to Shine event.

Statistics





Students & Young Alumni Outreach

GIVING TUESDAY

Collaboration between the Office of Alumni Relations, Office of Annual Giving, the Student Alumni Association, and the Student Philanthropy Council to promote philanthropy at Wright State. The #GivingTuesday campaign hosted nearly 150 students, faculty, and staff at the on-campus event that gave students the opportunity to thank someone who has supported their Wright State experience.

Through the online digital media campaign, nearly \$7,800 was raised from 74 alumni, students and friends, 33% of which were new or re-activated donors.



Alumni Postcard Writing Campaign
35 alumni wrote to 479 prospective students across the country

Student and Young Alumni Events
2015 | 28 2014 | 23 2013 | 8

Attendance of Student and Young Alumni Events
2015 | 1,300 2014 | 1,480 2013 | 655

GOLD Social Media Outreach
2015 | 934 2014 | 789

SAA Social Media Outreach
2015 | 754 2014 | 517

"Engaging the newest Raiders to foster a lifelong connection to Wright State."



#GivingTuesday



Reunions & Homecoming

THE GUARDIAN REUNION

Celebrating 50 years of the student newspaper at Wright State

Alumni of *The Guardian* student newspaper were reunited on September 25-26 for a weekend of festivities including a throwback to evenings out as a student with a celebration at W.O. Wrights Grill & Pub. The event, organized by a small committee of alumni volunteers, was greatly anticipated and appreciated by *The Guardian* alumni, current student staff members, and faculty advisers.

51 Guardian Reunion Attendees

ANNUAL CEHS TRIVIA NIGHT

This Homecoming event, hosted by the CEHS Advancement Committee, is quickly becoming an alumni favorite. Nearly 300 alumni and friends of the College of Education and Human Services came together for a battle of the minds.

287 CEHS Trivia Night Attendees

ROWDY GRAS

The annual New Orleans-style Monte Carlo event reunited and entertained more than 200 alumni.

224 Rowdy Gras Attendees

HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

The Homecoming Festival, prior to the men's soccer game, features live music, Wright State's annual Chili Cook-off, beer tents, food trucks, and games the whole family can enjoy. The festival is an event for generations of Raiders to celebrate and remember their time at Wright State.

700 Homecoming Festival Attendees



REUNIONS & HOMECOMING

Total Event Attendance

1,495

Homecoming Attendance

2015 | 1,220 2014 | 875



Alumni Recognition

The annual Alumni Association Achievement Awards began in 1983, when we honored one alumnus with outstanding professional and personal achievements who had provided continued support to the university.

This event has grown exponentially over the years. At the 2014 Alumni Association Achievement Awards, held on October 9, 2015, on Wright State's campus, we had the pleasure of presenting awards to the following deserving recipients.



Alumni Network Award of Excellence

Ryan B. Godfrey, '09 B.A.
College of Liberal Arts

Alumni Society Award of Excellence

Edwin B. Mayes, '89 B.S.B., '96 M.A.
Raj Sooin College of Business
College of Education and Human Services

Graduate of the Last Decade Award

Clifford A. Rosenberger, '12 B.S.
College of Liberal Arts

Volunteer Service Award

Amanda M. Opicka, '07 B.A., '07 B.A.
College of Liberal Arts
College of Science and Mathematics

Honorary Alumna Award

Amanda Wright Lane

Alumna of the Year Award

Erin P. Hoeflinger, '90 B.A.
College of Liberal Arts

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

Brady W. Kress, '96 B.A.
College of Liberal Arts



2015's Alumni Association Achievement Award winners



Alumni Recognition

Since our first awards ceremony in 2000, the College Outstanding Alumni Awards have honored alumni from each of the 10 colleges and schools within Wright State University. Recipients of these annual awards are selected based on their accomplishments in their chosen professions; the impact they have made at the local, state, national or international level; and the demonstrated giving of their time and talents to professional and community service organizations. This event is planned and sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations.

This year's College Outstanding Alumni Awards Luncheon was held on February 28, 2015 at Wright State University's Ervin J. Nutter Center. We had the pleasure of presenting awards to the following deserving recipients.



2014's College Outstanding Alumni Award winners

School of Professional Psychology
Erin E. Andrews, '08 Psy.D.

College of Engineering and Computer Science
Michael C. Bridges, '81 B.S.E.

Raj Soin College of Business
Douglas A. Cook, '81 M.B.A., '85 M.S.

Boonshoft School of Medicine
Randall W. Franz, '92 M.D., F.A.C.S., R.V.T.

College of Education and Human Services
Zachary W. Holler, '12 B.S.

Lake Campus
Orval H. Homan (non-degreed alum)

Wright State University Graduate School
Joseph E. Keferl, '93 B.S., '94 M.R.C., '95 M.R.C.

Wright State University – Miami Valley
College of Nursing and Health
Anna Jones Monnett, '83 B.S.N., '87 M.S.

College of Science and Mathematics
Ellis F. Unger, M.D., '76 B.S.

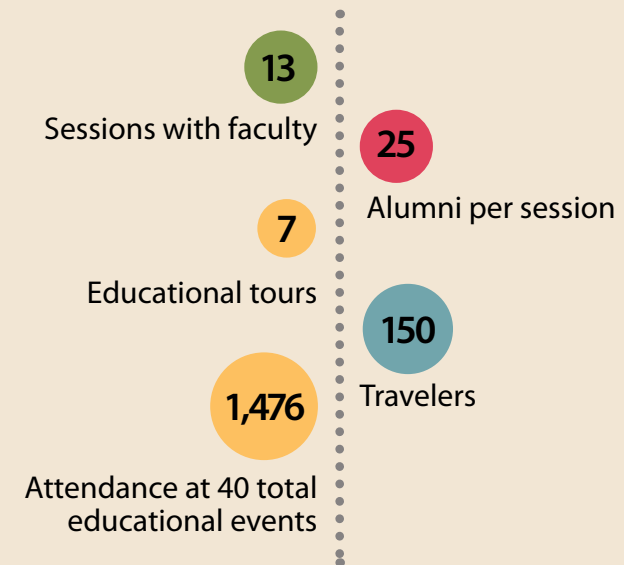
College of Liberal Arts
Judy Wyatt, '88 B.A.



Education & Travel

We believe the pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong quest. The Wright State University Alumni Association offers several opportunities to learn and expand your horizons after graduation—from streaming online lectures to exotic and culturally rich trips to theatre events to the Alumni Speaker Series.

Started in 2013, Alumni College is a rich opportunity to enjoy the university learning experience again and to sample the recent research and academic courses of Wright State's distinguished faculty.



40 total educational events held in 2015

Athletics Engagement

The Wright State University Alumni Association collaborates with Athletics to bring alumni together on campus and across the nation.



1,922

ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE





Emma Woodruff '19
Legacy Scholarship recipient

Alumni Philanthropy

The Alumni Association has been awarding scholarships to Wright State University students for more than 40 years through its Legacy Scholarship.

We awarded 48 scholarships in 2015 totaling more than \$45,000, bringing our grand total of scholarships awarded to \$629,058 awarded to 781 students since 1972.

OUR NEWEST INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS IS ALUMNI GROVE, WHICH IS A PARK-LIKE SETTING AROUND ALUMNI TOWER. SINCE ITS INCEPTION WE HAVE INSTALLED OVER

- 150 brick pavers
- 14 trees
- 2 benches

RESULTING IN MORE THAN \$28,000 IN GIVING.

We also have 2 new named legacy scholarship endowments, bringing us to a total of 5



TOTAL GIFTED

[Alumni Association has gifted to the University through 2015]



48 scholarships were awarded in 2015, totaling more than \$45,000!



Strength in Numbers

2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
\$5,800	\$2,687	\$1,314	\$1,899	\$9,771
African-American Alumni Society Scholarship				
\$36,636	\$52,231	\$55,040	\$20,521	\$27,864
Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship (includes Legacy Golf Outing \$)				
\$10,583	\$4,832	\$3,000	\$2,250	
Alumni Association Named Legacy Endowments				
\$1,004	\$2,417	\$4,300	\$4,871	
Alumni Grove Campus Fund				
\$3,312	\$1,915	\$3,440	\$3,020	\$1,723
Lake Campus Alumni Network Scholarship				
\$1,198	\$400	\$5,415	\$485	
Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Alumni Society Scholarship				
\$3,530	\$1,365	\$5,909	\$415	\$6,564
Social Work Alumni Society Scholarship				
\$1,650	\$150			
Cleveland Alumni Network Scholarship				
\$450	\$1,000			
College of Nursing & Health Alumni Society Scholarship				
\$520	\$20			
Fraternity & Sorority Alumni Society Scholarship				
\$64,683	\$67,017	\$78,418	\$33,461	\$45,922



**Raised
\$16,570**
*The Alumni Association
Legacy Scholarship
Golf Outing*

Alumni Giving

Gifts to the Wright State University Foundation are making a positive impact all over the world. The Campaign for Wright State University will expand our curriculum, attract top-flight faculty, build world-class facilities, and provide scholarships for more students. Now is the time. Together we will rise; together we will shine!



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Annual supporters can **CONTRIBUTE** to more than 1,900 different funds at Wright State, giving them the ability to support what is most important to them.

1,900

Gifts of all sizes make a difference. In 2015 we had **2,832** donors who made gifts less than \$100.

2015 **\$2,087,302** 2014 **\$1,548,423**

CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALUMNI

34.5%

Increase over previous fiscal year contributions by alumni.



For the public launch of the campaign, the arena floor of the Nutter Center was transformed into a dazzling landscape that included a glittering makeshift chandelier and a kaleidoscope of towering video screens. Eddie McClintock, a 1991 Wright State graduate who has appeared in numerous TV shows and most recently played the role of a Secret Service agent in the popular Syfy series *Warehouse 13*, served as master of ceremonies.

Academy Award-winning actor, producer, and director Tom Hanks and Amanda Wright Lane, great grandniece of university namesakes Wilbur and Orville Wright, are spearheading the *RISE. SHINE. Campaign* as co-chairs. Hanks recorded a video message for guests attending the campaign launch. "Wright State is a rising leader in 21st century higher education," he said. "From groundbreaking research to world-class fine and performing arts, this university truly has a mission that matters."

rise.shine.wright.edu

The Campaign for Wright State

Rise. Shine. These two simple words encompass the spirit of Wright State University. We envision a future where Wright State is a new model for higher education: a public institution that's imaginative, fearless, and nimble in adapting to the needs of a fast-changing world. Partnering with alumni and friends through *RISE. SHINE. The Campaign for Wright State University*, we will be able to expand our curriculum and attract top-flight faculty. We will build world-class facilities and invest in research that advances knowledge and creates jobs. We will engage with our community to solve real problems and provide more scholarships for our hard-working students.

President David R. Hopkins announced *RISE. SHINE. The Campaign for Wright State University* on October 18, 2014, before 600 students, faculty, staff, donors, and other special guests at the Wright State University Nutter Center.

RISE. SHINE.

The Campaign for Wright State University

A total of \$126 million in gifts and pledges has already been raised toward the \$150 million campaign goal, including a record number of gifts from alumni. At least 10 Wright State graduates have each pledged \$1 million or more to the campaign.

Wright State took the *RISE. SHINE. Campaign* on the road with nine regional events attended by over 700 people throughout the United States in 2015. The nine regions account for nearly \$28 million of our \$126 million raised thus far.



Join us in supporting this campaign that will forever change the future of our great university. *Together we will rise; together we will shine!*



"From groundbreaking research to world-class fine and performing arts, this university truly has a mission that matters."

-Tom Hanks





RISE. SHINE.

The Campaign for Wright State University

Foundation Building
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, Ohio 45435
wrightstatealumni.com