

2019 ANNUAL REPORT WRIGHT STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Founded in 1971



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ABOUT THE WRIGHT STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VISION

To actively engage and support current and future alumni in a life-long relationship with Wright State University.

MISSION

The Wright State University Alumni Association engages alumni in supporting the University. We provide exceptional value and ongoing support to our alumni by offering a sense of belonging, community, connection, and pride.



Wright State Alumni Association

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

Since its inception, Wright State has awarded degrees to over 113,000 alumni who have benefited in many ways from the Wright State Alumni Association. Since 1984, the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship program has been providing tuition assistance to students pursuing their Wright State degrees. These scholarships are

intended for the families of alumni association members and continue the growth of our institutional heritage. The Wright State 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 25-volunteer Board of Directors, 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.

A NEW HORIZON



This is my final note as president of the Wright State Alumni Association. After serving on the Board for 10 years, the last two as president, my term has come to an end. I rest easy knowing the association is on strong footing with exemplary leadership.

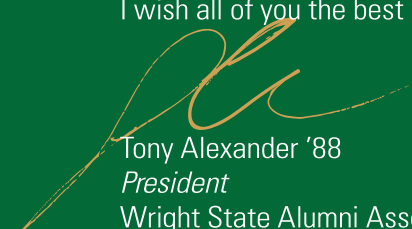
Looking back over this year, 2019 has been a period in which much has been made of events at the university. We started the year on a good note, having avoided fiscal watch, but this was quickly followed by news of the faculty strike. Fortunately, the parties were able to quickly reach resolution, and within a short period, the faculty were back in the classrooms guiding Wright State's most valuable asset, its students, through the learning process. Words fail to express my extreme gratitude to those students who were determined to support Wright State through what must have been an uncertain time.

More change is looming with Dr. Susan Edwards ascending from her role as provost to president. Cheryl B. Schrader, Ph.D., will continue her affiliation with Wright State, moving to a teaching and research position. I wish both the best of successes as they move forward in their new roles. As for the alumni association, we continue to support Wright State and its students. This year, the alumni association provided nearly \$40,000 in scholarship funding. The process of selecting our scholarship recipients is a true point of pride for the association.

Many of you witnessed a change to Homecoming with the inaugural Festival of Flight. This festival was hosted in partnership with the university, the City of Fairborn, the Miami Valley Restaurant Association, and the National Aviation Heritage Alliance. Over 4,200 people attended this year's event. We are excited about the future of this festival, and the bringing together of our alumni and the community.

As a final point, the alumni association has found a new home. Now located in the former executive wing of the Wright-Patt Credit Union building at 2455 Presidential Drive, across from campus, we are happy to have a home that is welcoming to you, our alumni. Please stop in and visit the Office of Alumni Relations staff and have a tour of our new digs.

I wish all of you the best of futures! GO RAIDERS!



Tony Alexander '88
President
Wright State Alumni Association

A YEAR OF TRANSITION AND TRANSFORMATION

2019 will be known as a transformational year for Wright State University. We had our ups and downs, but by the end of the year, the university was on solid financial footing with new leadership in place to take us into the future.



The association also had a transformational year:

- We launched the first-ever Festival of Flight, a true community festival to celebrate our region's innovation and aviation heritage. We had over 4,200 attend this inaugural event. This was the largest and most ambitious event the alumni association has ever undertaken. The focus of this family-friendly festival was on education and innovation. We are planning our second annual festival for Saturday, September 26, 2020.
- We found a new place to call home. The alumni association opened only its second alumni center in the history of the university in August of 2019. We occupy half of the second floor of the former headquarters of the Wright-Patt Credit Union in Fairborn. This affords us plenty of space to hold meetings and events, and conduct the business of our alumni board and our 20 alumni volunteer organizations. The Wright State University Special Collections and Archives, which houses the largest collection of Wright brothers materials in the world, will eventually be moving into the first floor and lower level of the building.
- We broke our previous record for the number of donors in one day during the 2019 Wright Day To Give, ending the day with 622 donors and raising over \$64,000 to benefit our students.
- We broke the all-time annual attendance record with over 12,000 people attending our 118 events.
- We also focused more heavily on getting alumni involved as volunteers and increased our total number of alumni volunteers from 400 to 518. We hope to continue to grow this number well into the future!

We have a lot to be proud of in 2019 and a lot to be excited about in 2020 and beyond. I hope you will join us!

Greg Scharer

Greg Scharer
Executive Director
Wright State Alumni Association

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

CONTACT US

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937-775-2620

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Fairborn, OH 45324

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ONLINE
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SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/WrightStateAlumni

TWITTER
twitter.com/WrightStAlumni

LINKEDIN
linkd.in/JKMRa7

INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/wrightstatealumni

STAFF

Greg Scharer
Executive Director

Nick Warrington '12
Assistant Director

Nicole L. Craw
Assistant Director of Alumni
Marketing & Communications

Emily "Bing" Bingham '16
Alumni Relationship Specialist

Kathy Kuntz
Office Services Coordinator

Elaine Pruner
Records Technician

Solañe Bass '22
Student worker

Aaron Brautigam '21
Student worker

Kaylyn Straughter '21
Student worker

GIVING STAFF

Amy Jones '06
Director of Annual Giving

Becky Valekis
Assistant Director of Annual
Giving

Jennifer Troutman '20
Graduate Assistant

Tori Coleman '20
Development Student Aide

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

President, Tony Alexander '88
Vice President, Bob Reynolds '88
Secretary, Mary Murphy '89
Treasurer, Chris Brookshire '11, '14

Dan Baker '12, '12, '15
Sam Bernard '11
Mike Brush '02
Amanda Burks '05
Eric Crouch '91, '95
Paula Cosby '12
Deb Downing '81
Karen Hunt '86
Pat Jones '01
Jason Lansdale '00
Stacey Lawson '94, '96
Edwin Mayes '89, '96
Chris Moyer '85, '86
Amanda Opicka '07, '07
Penny Profit '94
Michael Robertson '11, '14, '16
Rick Smith '84
Amanda Thompson '08, '09
Jerry Tritle '81, '83
Woody Willis '83
Lisa Wiseman '98

** The above list represents the
2019 Alumni Association Board
of Directors*



2019 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL # OF EVENTS

2019 118 Events
2018 132
2017 152
2016 179
2015 186
2014 172
2013 211



EVENT ATTENDEES

2019 12,240 Attendees
2018 8,421
2017 9,255
2016 7,660
2015 9,530
2014 8,141
2013 7,672
2012 6,642

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

2019 518 Volunteers
2018 410
2017 299
2016 228
2015 245
2014 245
2013 210

SOCIAL MEDIA

COMMUNICATIONS

2.08 MILLION E-MAILS SENT TO ALUMNI
16% OPEN RATE ON E-MAILS
2 MAGAZINES SENT TO 77,611 HOUSEHOLDS
17K WEBSITE USERS
76,700 WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS [88% ARE NEW VISITORS]

Facebook	Twitter
2019 10,088	2019 2,301
2018 10,016	2018 2,206
2017 9,892	2017 2,100
2016 9,644	2016 1,939
2015 9,074	2015 1,612
2014 8,392	2014 1,280
2013 2,445	2013 772
LinkedIn	Instagram
2019 7,610	2019 1,444
2018 7,534	2018 1,323
2017 7,527	2017 1,163
2016 7,511	2016 1,075
2015 7,251	2015 621
2014 6,900	
2013 6,287	



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY'S NETWORKS & SOCIETIES

The Wright State 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.

Attendance

1,758
Network/Society Events
37

Networks
10

Societies
12

Network & Society Leaders
50

Greater New York City
Alumni Network
New York City, New York

Lake Campus Alumni Network
Celina, Ohio

Los Angeles Alumni Network
Los Angeles, California

Tampa Alumni Network
Tampa, Florida

Washington, D.C. Alumni
Network
Washington, D.C.

LGBTQ and Ally Alumni Society

Model UN Alumni Society

MPA Alumni Society

Nonprofit Leadership Alliance
Alumni Society

Social Work Alumni Society

Veteran & Military Alumni
Society

ALUMNI NETWORKS

Chicago Alumni Network
Chicago, Illinois

Greater Cincinnati Alumni
Network
Cincinnati, Ohio

Greater Cleveland Alumni
Network
Cleveland, Ohio

Greater Columbus Alumni
Network
Columbus, Ohio

Greater Dayton Alumni Network
Dayton, Ohio

ALUMNI SOCIETIES

'67 Society

African American Alumni Society

Amigos Latinos de Wright State
University

College of Nursing and Health
Alumni Society

Fraternity and Sorority Alumni
Society

GradX
*(formerly Graduates of the Last
Decade)*



YOUNG ALUMNI AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



'67 SOCIETY

Serving as the university’s premier advancement organization, the ‘67 Society lives out the mission of Wright State University by promoting an inclusive community that encourages student philanthropy and engages with alumni. Celebrating the founding year of Wright State (1967), this organization promotes tradition and school spirit.

Mission: As members of the ‘67 Society, we live out the mission of Wright State University by promoting an inclusive community that encourages student philanthropy and engaging with alumni.

GOALS

- Foster and build traditions at Wright State University
- Share the Wright State Alumni Association’s vision with students
- Provide professional development and networking opportunities for students
- Continue the spirit of giving and educate students about Wright State philanthropy

GRADX

The GradX (formerly Graduates of the Last Decade, GOLD) alumni society is an enthusiastic group of alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years. GradX offers young alumni the chance to stay connected with the Wright State community and the alumni association.

Student and Young Alumni Events

2019 | 5
2018 | 16
2017 | 12
2016 | 17
2015 | 28

Attendance at Student and Young Alumni Events

2019 | 2,475
2018 | 1,535
2017 | 1,178
2016 | 793
2015 | 1,300

GradX Social Media Outreach

2019 | 546
2018 | 395*
2017 | 673
2016 | 619
2015 | 934
(*transition from GOLD to GradX)

'67 Society Social Media Outreach

2019 | 349
2018 | 174
2017 | 155*
(*New in 2017)





WRIGHT DAY TO GIVE

The third annual Wright Day to Give is a day to celebrate the university’s official founders day, October 1. This unique day for giving is an online philanthropic giving day for alumni, friends, parents, students, faculty, and staff. Engaging with Wright State for a day that brings together ALL Raiders.

We saw great success again in our third year. With a total of **622** proud Raiders and friends supporting Wright State, raising nearly **\$65,000**.

GIVING TRENDS

- 76%** Alumni donors
- 10%** Friends
- 10%** Student donors
- 20%** Re-activated donors*
- 18%** New donors

*Re-activated donors are donors we have welcomed back who didn't give last fiscal year

DONORS

Alumni	410
Friends	54
Students	52
Corporate	8
Other	98

The Wright State Alumni Association Board of Directors came together to challenge all alumni on the Wright Day to Give. They pledged to match each gift to the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship—for every \$2 given, they matched \$1—up to \$4,000.

MATCH TOTALS: 145 donors, \$15,542
(13 new donors, 102 renewed donors)

Where The Money Went

- Fund type*
- 60% Scholarships, 40% Programs
- Designation area (general and top three academic areas)*
- 64% General scholarship/program funds
 - 8.3% Raj Sooin College of Business
 - 8% College of Liberal Arts
 - 5.6% College of Science and Mathematics
- Designations with most gifts*
- Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship 27%
 - WSU Excellence Fund 13%
 - Rise. Shine. Scholarship 8%

Number of different funds supported: 115



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



AWARD WINNERS

Carol and Richard Lundin
Honorary Alumni Award

Dr. Christen DeAnne Johnson
'12 B.A., '17 M.P.H., '17 M.D.
Graduate of the Last Decade Award

Cynthia W. Jones '05 M.Ed.
Volunteer Service Award

Kip Wright '90 A.A., '01 B.S.
Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

Cameron Holsinger '04 B.F.A.
Alumnus of the Year Award

The Wright State Alumni Association held its annual Alumni Achievement Awards ceremony on Friday, October 5, during Wright State's Homecoming Weekend. The alumni association recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of Wright State alumni each year at the event. Winners are selected from a pool of over 113,000 alumni and are recognized for numerous accomplishments in their chosen fields. In addition to possessing high standards of integrity and character, they have also given their time and talent to benefit the Wright State Alumni Association.

TRAVEL AND TOURS

The Wright State Alumni Association offers educational tours with unique itineraries exclusively to our Wright State family (alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and retirees). Travel to exotic destinations to learn about culture, art, history, and much more.



2019 Travel and Tours

Spring

- Kentucky Wine Trail Tour
- Mediterranean Collage cruise

Summer

- Baltic and Scandinavian Ballads cruise

Fall

- 9th Annual Bourbon Tour
- Fall Splendors cruise
- Inspiring Italy cruise

Winter

- Chicago Holiday Bus Tour



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GIVING

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

\$802,056
TOTAL AWARDED TO DATE

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2019

- **Alumni Association Scholarships: 18**
 - Total to date—Wright State Alumni Association: **917**
 - Total value in 2019: **\$7,837**
- **Alumni Legacy Scholarships: 29**
 - Total to date – Legacy Scholarship: **850**
 - Total value in 2019: **\$39,250**



ALUMNI GROVE

The Wright State Alumni Association’s Alumni Grove project is helping to grow our campus and add to its already beautiful landscape. All proceeds from this project support the Alumni Association’s Legacy Scholarship.

\$38,000
AMOUNT IN GIVING

2019 GROVE PROJECT

- **154 BRICK PAVERS • 12 TREES • 4 BENCHES**

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship *(includes Legacy Golf Outing \$)*
2019 | \$50,340
2018 | \$74,220
2017 | \$51,630
2016 | \$51,967
2015 | \$36,636

Alumni Association Named Legacy Endowments
2019 | \$13,882
2018 | \$6,048
2017 | \$11,154
2016 | \$7,537
2015 | \$10,583

African American Alumni Society Scholarship Endowment
2019 | \$1,118
2018 | \$3,687
2017 | \$1,928
2016 | \$5,250
2015 | \$5,800

Alumni Grove Campus Fund
2019 | \$933
2018 | \$2,986
2017 | \$1,507
2016 | \$564
2015 | \$1,004

Lake Campus Alumni Network Scholarship Endowment
2019 | \$1,870
2018 | \$2,291
2017 | \$1,701
2016 | \$550
2015 | \$3,312

Social Work Alumni Society Scholarship Endowment
2019 | \$3,767
2018 | \$4,872
2017 | \$275
2016 | \$3,270
2015 | \$3,270

Cleveland Alumni Network Scholarship
2019 | \$110
2018 | \$318
2017 | \$1,568
2016 | \$1,355
2015 | \$1,650

College of Nursing & Health Alumni Society Scholarship
2019 | \$2,383
2018 | \$4,726
2017 | \$1,290
2016 | \$4,215
2015 | \$450

Fraternity & Sorority Alumni Society Scholarship
2019 | \$924
2018 | \$777
2017 | \$620
2016 | \$1,345
2015 | \$520

TOTALS

2019 | \$75,327
2018 | \$101,050
2017 | \$71,873
2016 | \$76,199
2015 | \$64,683



2019 ALUMNI GIVING

Giving to Wright State University offers alumni and friends an opportunity to directly impact Wright State students by providing support to the college, school, unit, scholarship, or program of their choice.

BY THE NUMBERS

Annual supporters can contribute to **2,446** different funds at Wright State, giving them the ability to support what is most important to them.

TOTAL ALUMNI DONORS: 2,380

\$3,297,415
CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALUMNI



Gifts of all sizes make a difference. In 2019, we had **1,008 Alumni Donors** who made gifts less than \$100. **That's 42% OF ALL ALUMNI DONATIONS received.**

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

- 25% re-activated donors *(welcomed back donors who didn't give last fiscal year)*
- 16% first-time donors
- 18% donors who increased their gift
- 51% all donor retention
- 55% alumni donor retention

Note: Giving calculated on a fiscal year – July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

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wrightstatealumni.com
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