

I said at the start of today's ceremony that I am truly honored to have the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Wright State University Faculty.

On their behalf I congratulate this graduating class! All of you should be proud of what you have achieved. There really is nothing more rewarding to a faculty member than to hear about the great things that their students have been doing – please stay in touch!

From your years of interacting with them you know that many of Wright State's faculty are literally world leaders in their respective fields. They are making huge impacts not just on their students but on a worldwide scale. I'd like to introduce just a couple of those outstanding faculty to your family and friends who probably have not had the chance to get to know these amazing individuals.

Let me first draw your attention to my friend and colleague, Professor Travis Doom. Dr. Doom, please stand for a moment. Dr. Doom is an Associate Professor in the Computer Science Department in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and he is the recipient of this year's Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching Award. I have co-taught bioinformatics courses with Dr. Doom and can tell you first hand that his ability to connect with students is second to none. But Dr. Doom's impact on our students goes much beyond when they see him in the classroom. He has played a huge role in pioneering student-centered active learning at Wright State where students learn course material outside of class and then use class time to use and discuss what they have learned with other students and faculty. You've probably noticed that Wright State is in the middle of constructing a new classroom building but you might not know that the classrooms in that building are specifically designed with that kind of active learning in mind. Thank you Dr. Doom for helping to show a way that we can help our students succeed in a world where information is abundant and the skills to use it are in high demand!

I'd like to now call out Dr. Paul Lockhart, a Professor of History from our College of Liberal Arts. He is the recipient of this year's Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research Award. Dr. Lockhart's scholarship is amazing in terms of its range, quality and quantity. His expertise encompasses Scandinavian history, American history, and military history. He has authored six books since 1996 and even faculty at other institutions have described his work as an "inspiration" and as "a scholarly role model." One reviewer of his book "The Whites of Their Eyes: Bunker Hill, the First American Army, and the Emergence of George Washington" called it a "shrewd, well-judged interpretation that corrects myths about the battle and the men who fought it, while doing full justice to their achievement in creating an army – and a nation – out of chaos." It takes a special kind of faculty member to be both internationally recognized for his scholarship while at the same time producing work that is so accessible to the general public. Thank you so much Dr. Lockhart for being part of what make Wright State faculty so world class.

Again, I am so proud to be able to speak on behalf of such phenomenal faculty and to have the opportunity to introduce just a few of them to the friends and families of our graduates.