



# The Extension

## Speaker Series Provides Campus Updates

Carol Stevenson

Since the fall of 2012, the university has hired three new deans. Throughout the year, WSURA will be highlighting each of these new deans as well as other interesting speakers to keep you informed regarding current and future issues and trends happening here on campus. The presentations have been held in the Atrium on the first floor of Millett Hall.

The following summaries are from presentations given by two of the new deans and the Provost. It is the sincere goal of the WSURA Board that all members have an opportunity to hear and ask questions of the presenters; to continue being well informed regarding the progress of various university initiatives; and to maintain a sense of community after retirement.

The first speaker was **Dr. Kristin Sobolik**, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. In her biography, President Hopkins reports that **Dr. Sobolik** has brought a wealth of leadership experience, a proven ability to collaborate, and a strong commitment to engage students in global, real-world issues and research opportunities. Although originally from Iowa, she has returned to the Midwest from the University of Maine where she served as Associate Dean for Research and External Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She has led the development of the new fields of Archaeobiology and Paleonutrition with over 100 books, journal articles and presentations published on those subjects. Currently at Wright State she cited renovations to the Creative Arts Building, and continuing to develop the motion picture program that provides high visibility for Wright State, the surrounding community, and beyond as high priorities for COLA.

The second speaker in the series was Soin College of Business Dean, **Joanne Li**. **Dean Li** grew up in Hong Kong and has an extensive business background in corporate governance/university governance, in the Thailand Stock

### The Extension

The Extension is published quarterly for the WSU retirees by the Wright State University Retirees Association (WSURA).

Cut off dates for articles:

- Nov. 1—Winter Quarter
- Feb. 1—Spring Quarter
- May 1—Summer Quarter
- Aug. 1—Fall Quarter

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Exchange, and as a financial analyst. Her professors encouraged her to continue studies through her Ph.D. She stated that she owes a great deal to higher education in the U.S. and her professors and thought that now is the time to 'pay back'. She is dynamic, energetic, and has great ideas. The College of Business will thrive under her leadership.

Shortly after the meeting, the Dean shared an email she received from a student who was listening to her presentation.

*Hello,*

*I was actually a student off to the side just eating my lunch and studying. I want to say that your speech was so intriguing that I had to stop and listen to you. You were so inspiring how you spoke. I am not a Business major but what you said really made me want to be just better in my life. You spoke with such elegance and passion that it just made me drawn into listening. I am so proud that our University has a person like you as Dean.*

*Thank you for inspiring me. (Students name withheld.)*

**Dean Li** has been actively forging relationships with student, members of the business community, and parents through the use of one-on-one contacts and social media. Her goal is to be a major partner in creating education programs not even imagined yet. She envisions Wright State University as an extended arm for corporations and a partner and leader in this region.

The third presenter in this series was the Provost, **Dr. Sundaram Narayanan**. **Dr. Narayanan** came to Wright State as an assistant professor, rose through faculty ranks to become full professor and later served as chair of the Department of Biomedical, Industrial and Human Factors Engineering for nine years. While chair, **Narayanan** served as founding director of the Wright State Research Institute. In 2010 he was named dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. "It is humbling to be Provost at this time in Wright State's history," he states. Our mission is to provide a high quality education at an affordable cost.

Sixty to seventy percent of our graduates remain in Ohio making significant contributions both educationally and financially. Wright State University has an important role in the future of Ohio. Globally, we are hyper-connected with the world. WSU supports study abroad opportunities as well as attracting 1,600 students from 66 different countries. In order to increase the university's market share of students the focus must be on recruitment, retention and transfer by negotiating articulation agreements. Some of the initiatives are: providing scholarships for students with 25-30 ACT scores, developing branding, marketing, and recruiting students by demonstrating the value provided by a Wright State University education. Financial strides can be made by taking research successes and turning them into companies to take into the market place. Distance programs, and partnering with corporations in revenue sharing opportunities will provide enhanced financial support. Wright State University is working to become the university of first choice for not only students, but also for faculty and staff seeking employment in a first class institution of higher education.

Each presenter provided insight into her/his particular area of responsibility and vision for the future as a leader in those areas. Enthusiasm and energy were evident in each presenter and provided a mental picture of the framework for implementation of the vision. A common theme was developing partnerships with corporations, partnerships with other secondary and post-secondary schools, as well as partnerships with parents and prospective students well before the final decision of where to attend is made. Excitement and pride in affiliation with Wright State University were very evident in each presenter. We, the Board, hope you will be able to join us spring semester as this series continues.



## WSURA Activities Calendar Winter Semester 2014

**Sunday, January 5**

**Dining Out**

Place: Brio's at The Greene

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Cost: Individual orders

RSVP by December 27 to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu) or 937-974-4010

**Wednesday, February 5**

**Guest Speaker— Associate Provost, Robert Sweeney**

Place: COLA Conference Room (note change), first floor Millett Hall

Time: 11:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 5**

**Dayton Philharmonic Rehearsal at the Schuster Center**

(for Classical Series Performances of Feb. 6-8, 2014)

5:00 p.m. dinner prior to rehearsal—Uno's 126 N. Main St

Time: 7:00 p.m. tour the Schuster Center

7:30 p.m. rehearsal begins

9:00 p.m. rehearsal break; visitors free to leave

RSVP: Wednesday, January 8 for dinner and/or rehearsal to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu) or 937-974-4010

**Saturday, February 8**

**WSU Basketball Game vs Cleveland State University**

Time: 1:00 p.m.; Alumni Box #218, E.J. Nutter Center

Dinner following the game at TJ Chumps—1100 E. Dayton Yellow Springs Rd, Fairborn

RSVP: Wednesday, January 8, for game and/or dinner to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu) or 937-974-4010

**Wednesday, March 5**

**Guest Speaker: Donna Schlagheck, Chair, Department of Political Science**

Topic: Model UN at WSU

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Student Union, E-163A (Discovery A)

## Other WSU Events of Interest

**Tuesday, February 11**

**Presidential Lecture Series:**  
**LeRoy Butler**, Advocate for  
Disadvantaged Youth  
Time: 7:00 pm, Apollo Room, Student Union

**Wednesday, March 19**

**Presidential Lecture Series:**  
**Michio Kaku, Ph.D.**, Famed Theoretical  
Physicist and co-founder of the String Theory  
and also known for predicting trends affecting  
business, commerce, and finance based on the  
latest research in science.  
Time: 7:00 pm, E.J. Nutter Center

### **Friends of the Libraries: Unwin(e)d Book Club**

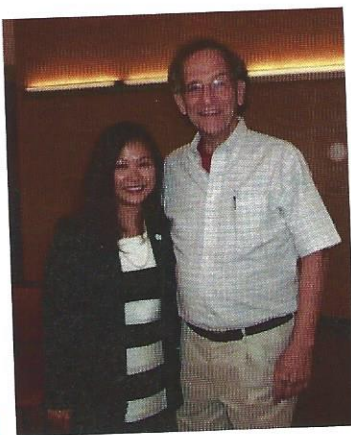
Book club meets each month at 5:30 p.m. in Winan's Fine Chocolates & Coffees.  
3510 Pentagon Blvd., Beaver Creek (in front of the Hilton by Sam's Club)  
There are a limited number of print & Ebook copies on reserve at Dunbar Library.  
Featured books are also sold at the Barnes and Noble University Bookstore (20% discount  
with Wright1 or Friend' membership card).

**January 9:** *We Need New Names* by **NoViolet Bulawayo**

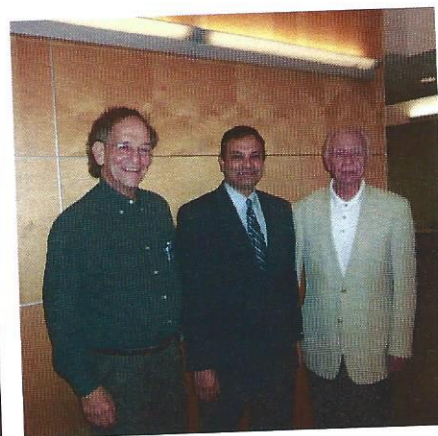
**March 13:** *Man Alive!* by **Mary Kay Zuravleff**



Dean Kristin Sobolik, COLA



Dean Li, Soin College of  
Business and Abe Bassett



Abe Bassett, Provost Narayanan and  
Jim Sayer

## President's Message The Pleasure of Service Abe Bassett

As a retiree, you have spent many years of your working life devoted to Wright State University. You can continue to enjoy campus life and to be of service. Your Retirees Association is alive and well, and doing all we can to allow you to partake of campus life, for your intellectual stimulation, for maintaining friendships, and for the pleasure of service.

As many retirees are now living in communities too far from campus to participate directly, we have developed a new way for you to stay in touch, and that is through FACEBOOK. If you use this social media, place "Wright State University Retirees Association" in the search box, and choose to become a "friend". Here you may post photographs, your special insights on any topic, and news about your coming and going. It is a great way to stay in contact with your friends and to know what is happening on campus.

In early January you will receive information from the WSU Alumni Association regarding travel tours for the 2014-2015 travel season. As my wife and I have traveled on Alumni sponsored tours with the Ohio State University, I assure you that alumni tours are professionally prepared and that the camaraderie and friendliness of the group is outstanding. This opportunity is offered as a service to Alumni and Retirees, and without profit to either organization. Place the following URL in your browser to go directly to see the upcoming destinations the Alumni Association is currently offering:

<http://www.wrightstatealumni.com/travel.html>

In addition to travel tours, we are cooperating with the Alumni Association in other ways. They are allowing us to use their Nutter Center box for a basketball game, and they are a co-sponsor for our March 6 presentation of Wright State's very successful Model UN program. Also joining us, as co-sponsors are the Dayton Council on World Affairs and the WSU Friends of the Libraries. The chief presenter of

this program is **Dr. Donna Schlagheck**, Chair of the Dept of Political Science.

Our association continues to find ways to be of service to our members and to the University. Elsewhere in this newsletter, there is an article about serving as a language mentor to our increasing number of foreign students and faculty. This is the LEAP program. Please give serious consideration to giving one hour a week to helping foreign visitors improve their spoken English.

There are additional ways to participate in campus life, including the following:

During the autumn semester, we sponsored open presentations by two new Deans and the new Provost. This program will continue in the spring semester. The Presidential Lecture Series continues to bring interesting speakers on campus, most recently the former Bush presidency speechwriter, **David Frum**. He is credited with having written the phrase "Axis of Evil," used in the 2002 State of the Union address, prior to the invasion of Iraq.

Earlier in the year **Neil deGrasse Tyson** drew an overflow audience. **LeRoy Butler** and **Michio Kaku** are two well-known speakers scheduled for the spring semester.

You recently received an email from me in which I reported on a session of the Socrates Café, and a second email on participation in the WSU Library's Book Club (Un-win(e)d) to which retirees are invited.

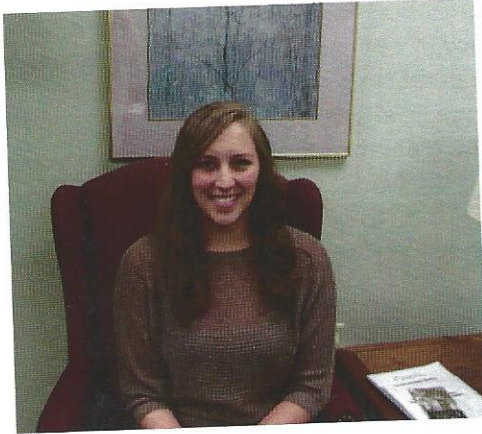
Elsewhere in this issue of *The Extension* is a brief report on the two individuals who received scholarships for the current academic year. We have been impressed with the maturity and intelligence of those who have been granted scholarships.

What does all this mean?

Simply there are many opportunities for you to be connected to your Wright State University, through activities and, importantly, through service.

Take advantage. Join us!

## News from WSURA



Erin Dorsten



Brianna Wellman

### 2013-14 Scholarship Recipients

For the second year, WSURA was able to award two \$1200 scholarships to deserving students. The first is a second year recipient, **Erin Dorsten**, who is a “legacy” student since her grandmother, **Carol Snyder**, was a Lake Campus professor. In addition, **Erin’s** parents and four siblings have or are now attending Wright State. Her sister, **Shawn**, our 2009-10 recipient, is now an emergency room nurse at the Miami Valley Hospital. **Erin’s** goal is to be a physical therapist.

Our second recipient, **Brianna Wellman**, is also from a northern school having graduated from Coldwater High School in 2010. Her grandfather, **Don Wellman**, taught engineering courses at Lake Campus. **Brianna’s** father, **Tim**, is an engineer with Crown Equipment Corporation and her mother, **Pam**, is secretary in a Coldwater law firm. She has three older married sisters and four nieces and nephews.

**Brianna** aspires to be an entrepreneur in the fashion field. She is majoring in Marketing with a Customer Insight concentration and, in addition to being a full-time student, has three part-time jobs that are related to that goal. She is working as a stylist in a Center-ville store, sells jewelry on the internet and works in marketing for a dermatologist. In spite of these commitments, **Brianna** carries a 3.83 GPA. On her scholarship application, she states, “I have set some pretty high goals and big dreams for myself, but I know my hard work and motivation will bring me to achieve. I have always taken school very seriously and have worked hard ...” Having met **Brianna**, I have no doubt that she will achieve her goals.

The **Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship** continues to be one of our most important activities. We hope that each of you will help support these fine students by contributing to this scholarship during the spring fund drive.



Gerry Petrak and Mike Griest

### **Health Fair**

WSURA once again had a popular booth at the WSU Health Fair. Exactly 200 people visited, picked up information and signed up for our door prize that was won by **Mike Griest** of Raider Connect. The basket that **Mike** won included basketball tickets to both men and women's basketball games, a 24 oz. WSU tumbler, a Tim Horton's Coffee and Travel Mug, a \$15 Subway Card, grape juice, honey and honey roasted almonds. Many thanks to the merchants and WSU departments who contributed to the basket.

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

The University's LEAP program has a program called "Conversation Partners," wherein volunteers meet with one or two foreign exchange students each week just to talk about whatever they want. The content is irrelevant, for the purpose is to enhance the students' English speaking skills. These chat sessions last just one hour. LEAP is currently looking for volunteers for the spring semester that starts mid-January 2014. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail **Jim Sayer** ([james.sayer@wright.edu](mailto:james.sayer@wright.edu)) and he will coordinate your interests with LEAP.

### **Deaths**

**Brenda Joyce Robinson-Barnett**, Environmental Services Department, September 2013

**Phillip Neff**, Manager, Systems Technology Unit, CATS, October 2013

**Jerry Hammon**, member of the founding committee of the Boonshoft School of Medicine, October 2013

**Stefan Pugh**, Chair (active), Modern Languages, COLA, October 2013