



impact

report 2019



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATION

impact

Andrea Kunk



Greetings!

On behalf of the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present our 2019 impact report. Your support makes a real difference in the lives of our students and, in many cases, is the determining factor in a student's ability to complete their education.

As a foundation, our conversations, programs, and initiatives center around supporting students. We rolled out the Students First Fund in 2018 and were able to fund some very exciting projects that you can read about in this report. We are entering our second year of funding this initiative and look forward to supporting another round of projects.

In 2019, for the first time in the Wright State University Foundation's history, a full-time foundation president and CEO was hired. This position was formerly held by the university's vice president for advancement. With this dedicated role, we are able to focus on growing the foundation by generating alternative revenue sources that, when partnered with the gifts from our donors, will enable an even greater impact on students and the university. If you haven't already, I hope you have the opportunity to meet Scott Rash, our foundation president and CEO, at an upcoming event. Scott is doing a great job leading our efforts to become an even stronger partner with the university.

As an alumna and board chair, I very much appreciate the outstanding support that you provide to our students and university and look forward to continuing to share with you the impact that your gifts are making.

Warmest regards,

Andrea Kunk '04, '07
Chair, Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees

On the cover: Wright State music student Noah Carpenter in front of the carillon church bells in Middletown. Noah is an organ performance and vocal education major, and recipient of the ArtsGala and BAM scholarships at Wright State. Hear him play this unique instrument at: www.wright.edu/ringleader

By The Numbers

Here is a closer look at gifts made to the Wright State University Foundation from January 1 to December 31, 2019.

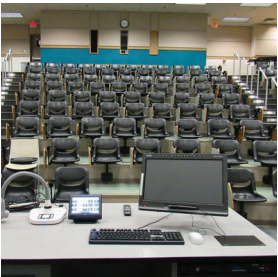
WHO GAVE?	Number of Donors	First-Time Donors	TOTAL GIVING
Alumni	2,297	181	\$2,076,792.08
Corporations	329	94	\$1,804,489.29
Foundations	94	15	\$808,196.62
Friends	2,440	469	\$1,196,416.55
Total Donors	5,160	759	\$5,885,894.54

If the 4,737 friends and alumni who supported Wright State in 2019 were all to lift together (assuming the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health’s maximum lift of 50 pounds per person), they’d be able to lift over 236,000 pounds (118 tons). That’s enough power to lift 75 2019 Honda Accord LX cars!

650 / New Donors



The 650 first-time friend and alumni donors in 2019 would fill every single seat in these three spaces on campus:
101 Fawcett Hall
120 Medical Sciences
072 Rike Hall



What Did Our Donors Support?

5

Academics | \$630,190.92
Athletics | \$489,610.65
Facilities and Equipment | \$126,713.88
Faculty Support | \$28,704.00
Gifts in Kind | \$233,012.22
Library | \$21,382.42
Programs and Services | \$972,890.58
Research | \$36,877.64
Scholarships | \$3,277,705.26
Unrestricted | \$68,806.97

5

GRAND TOTAL | \$5,885,894.54

2

EVERY GIFT COUNTS
1,711 donors made gifts of \$50 or less for a total of \$42,608.40. That’s nearly enough to pay for an undergraduate student’s full-time tuition, books, and supplies for four years*!
*Cost of full-time tuition, books, and supplies for two semesters is \$11,162

3

\$3.4 million / Scholarships
The Wright State University Foundation awarded 2,051 scholarships in the 2019-20 academic year totaling \$3,456,647.87!

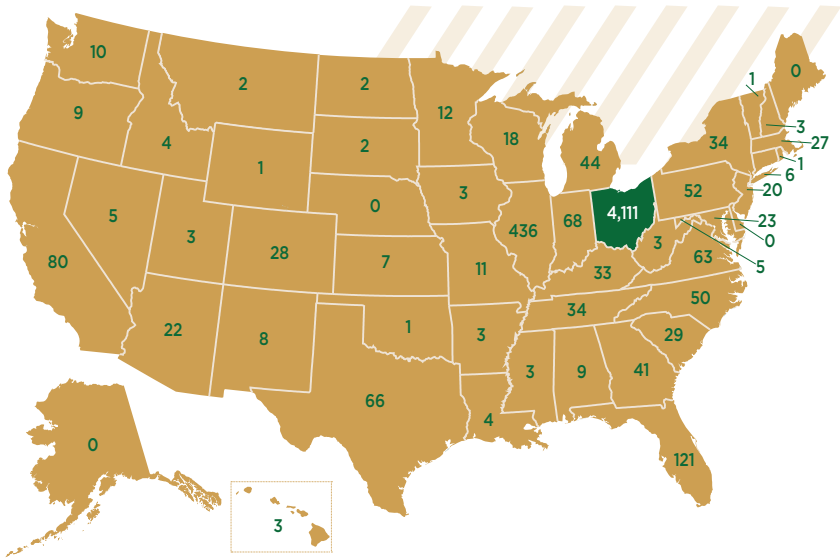
HOW LOYAL ARE OUR DONORS?

The following table shows the number of consecutive years that donors in 2019 have been supporting Wright State University.

Consecutive Years of Giving	Donor Count	% of TOTAL	
2019 Only	2,030	39.3%	DID YOU KNOW? 15.5% of donors in 2019 have made commitments to Wright State for 10 years or more! 220 donors in 2019 have consecutive giving streaks lasting for more than 20 years!
Two Years	756	14.7%	
Three Years	425	8.2%	
Four Years	284	5.5%	
Five Years	240	4.7%	
Six Years	215	4.2%	
Seven Years	160	3.1%	
Eight Years	130	2.5%	
Nine Years	121	2.3%	
10 Years or more	799	15.5%	
Grand Total	5,160	100.0%	

WHERE ARE OUR DONORS FROM?

In 2019, donors from 46 states, as well as Sweden, Qatar, India and Canada, made gifts to Wright State.



Corporate Giving By The Numbers

Corporate giving in 2019 exceeded \$1.8 million, representing gift commitments from over 329 companies!

- These corporations have a combined historical gift total exceeding \$51.7 million.
- 75 of these corporations supported scholarships with their gifts.
- More than 39 of these corporations have supported Wright State for 20 years or more.
- Six of these corporations have given more than \$1 million each during their total years of support.

IN 2019:
329 companies made \$1.8M commitments to Wright State



With \$733,789.18 going to scholarship support.

thank you! thank you! thank you!



The Wright Day to Give

One Day. Every Raider. Everywhere.

To celebrate the university's Founder's Day, Raiders came together on October 1, 2019 for the third annual Wright Day to Give—an online day of giving for alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students, and parents.

Here's what our generous donors made possible in just one day!

IN 2019: The Wright Day to Give received:
\$64,430 in gifts



FROM
622
donors

FOR
115
funds
(60% scholarships/
40% program funds)



Wright Day to Give event at Warped Wing Brewery

RAISED / \$181,513 in Gifts!

In its three-year existence, the Wright Day to Give has secured \$181,513 in gifts! This total could support our students in many meaningful ways, such as:



- Purchasing 2,511 used textbooks
Average cost of a used textbook is \$72.27.
- Providing groceries for 1,116 students through the Raider Food Pantry
\$1 provides six meals.
- Providing 18,133 hours of tutoring
Tutors are paid \$10.01/hour.



SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on Thursday, October 1, 2020 for the fourth annual Wright Day to Give!



CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP & INNOVATION CAMPAIGN

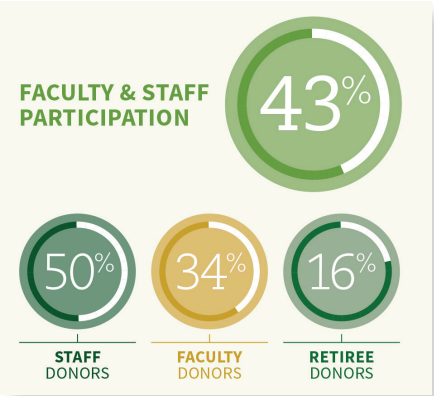
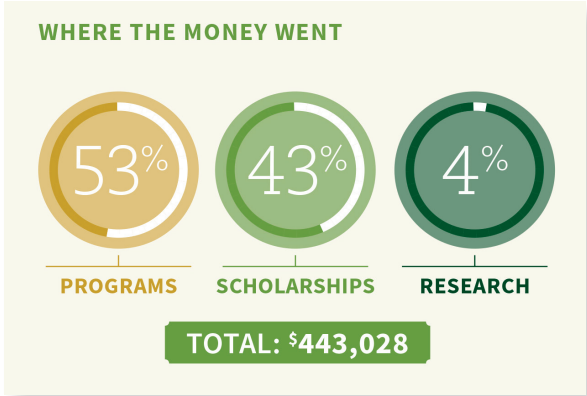
Millie Waddell

Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign

The Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign (CSIC) began in 1978 when one of Wright State’s first employees, Mildred “Millie” Waddell, organized the university’s first-ever employee giving effort.

That first campaign in 1978 raised more than \$39,000, which in today’s dollars equals more than \$150,000. Through her tact, talent and tenacity, Millie developed a broad base of support from all facets of the university community, resulting in an outstanding rate of participation for the giving campaign.

In 2019, our faculty, staff and retirees were challenged to invest in more than 13,000 Wright State students.



Raise Wright Crowdfunding

Raise Wright is Wright State University’s official crowdfunding platform for student, faculty and staff fundraising projects seeking support between \$1,000 and \$10,000. One hundred percent of the funds raised go directly to the projects, and donors receive tax credits and receipts from the Wright State University Foundation. Projects are required to have specific goals, be driven by tangible accomplishments, and align with the university’s mission and purpose.

Since its inception in December 2017, Raise Wright has generated \$44,334 for 15 projects to support student engagement, research, and other programs. Some of the innovative projects have included Wright Steps 2 More Pep, the Veteran and Military Center Champion Garden, the Saxophone Studio, and Protect the Propeller.

In 2019, the platform helped raise \$22,695 for the Disaster Relief Fund that supported students, faculty, staff and alumni affected by the Memorial Day tornadoes in Ohio. Gifts for all projects in 2019, including the Disaster Relief Fund, exceeded \$38,000.



Protect the Propeller Crowdfunding

RAISE WRIGHT



Students First Fund

Launched in January 2019, the Students First Fund was created by the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees to be proactive in seeking and funding innovative ideas that enhance the Wright State student experience.

Thirty-nine grant applications requesting more than \$211,000 in funding were received from a nearly equal number of students, faculty and staff. Members of the foundation’s grants committee thoroughly reviewed all applications, but ultimately could only fund one-third of the projects.

“This was a highly competitive process,” said Dave Deptula, chair of the Students First Fund grants committee. “We had only \$50,000 available for this first round of funding. We worked very hard to stretch the money as far as possible.”

“While we received many outstanding applications for Students First funding, the grants committee felt that these 13 initiatives best represented the intention of the Students First Fund, which is to support projects that promote student success, community engagement and leadership development,” said Deptula.

The following 13 projects were approved for Students First Fund grants, with awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000. Along with their grant, awardees will be given a plaque to display in their office or near the project location to signify that they received support from the Students First Fund.

Accessible Ink — The Office of Disability Services will purchase 20 Livescribe pens, protective cases, paper and ink to help students with disabilities take notes in the classroom. Along with promoting stronger study skills, these tools will be especially beneficial to students who struggle with traditional note taking.

Campus Safety Preparedness Training — The Red Cross Club will work with the Office of Emergency Management to increase awareness of where automated external defibrillator (AED) units and first aid kits are located across campus. In addition, 245 students will be trained in basic first aid, CPR and how to use an AED.

Decreasing the Runaround: Serving Students Where They Are — Registering for classes can be frustrating for students who do not attend Orientation. Academic Advising and Student Enrollment Services will install a computer near each of the academic advising units so students will have the option to register for courses before they leave campus. The goal of the project is to accelerate class enrollment, decrease student runaround and increase student satisfaction.



The Gratitude Project — Led by Counseling and Wellness Services, an inclusive community art piece will be designed and painted by the campus community in the outdoor amphitheater. The project is intended to express gratitude for all identities represented on the Wright State campus, celebrate diversity and create a sense of belonging among students, faculty, staff and alumni in a communal space that can be freely enjoyed by all.

Many Faces of Addiction — The Boonshoft School of Medicine will create a series of videos to educate college students and young adults about the opioid epidemic. The videos will be succinct to allow time for discussion with a moderator after each segment. Data will be collected through a questionnaire that asks participants questions before and after the training in order to better gauge their knowledge, opinions and stereotypes about addiction.

Nursing Success Program — The Lake Campus will begin offering peer mentoring for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. Juniors and seniors will mentor sophomore students and help them with stress management, social support, time management and organizational skills.

Raid-Our-Closet — An on-campus, donation-based closet, managed by Residence Life and Housing, will offer professional attire for Wright State students entering the workplace. By removing the monetary barriers associated with acquiring a professional wardrobe, the goal of Raid-Our-Closet is to empower students to secure and maintain employment.

Raider Camp — The Office of Student Activities will develop an optional three-day, on-campus, outdoor adventure and college-prep experience for incoming first-year students. The program will help new students get to know their classmates, better prepare them for college life and encourage them to be engaged on campus throughout their Wright State experience.

Raiders Mentoring Young People — The Raiders Mentoring Young People program will give Wright State students the opportunity to develop their counseling skills by mentoring low-income, elementary school children. The Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement has a longstanding partnership with the Westwood PreK–6 Neighborhood School Center. Students from Westwood will be bused to campus so they can meet with and learn from their Wright State student mentors.

Research Toolkit — Learning to do academic research is one of the biggest challenges that students face in college. The process of doing quality research is complex, and many students come to college having never written a research paper. In 2014, University Libraries created a series of eight workshops to help students learn how to do academic research. The Students First Fund grant will support the creation of two additional workshops that will be made available as online modules.

Seal the Deal — To help build community pride and tradition, a 48-inch bronze plaque of the Wright State University seal will be installed at Hamilton Hall plaza. Spearheaded by the '67 Society of the Student Alumni Association.

STEM for All — As part of a community outreach project, education students at the Wright State University–Lake Campus will develop a curriculum for a series of STEM Days for second grade students at Parkway Local Schools and St. Marys City Schools. With fewer than 10 percent of students in rural counties enrolled in a dedicated STEM class, this program will help promote STEM equity in lower-income communities.

The Wright Leader Podcast — Organizational leadership faculty will develop a series of podcasts to showcase real-world examples of leadership within the Wright State community and the Miami Valley. Each podcast will align with leadership concepts presented in organizational leadership’s community-based learning course. Students will be required to provide a written analysis of these podcasts as part of their coursework.



The foundation board has committed to funding the Students First grants program for at least two more years.

\$50,000 / GRANTS FUNDING



Daniel Lecklider, who was the first of the Otten Scholars, graduated from Wright State in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering.

Inspiring future leaders

Wright State University receives \$2.5 million estate gift

The estate of Klaus and Anna Otten, a Xenia couple who immigrated to the United States from Europe in the aftermath of World War II, will help educate Wright State University students and create future generations of engineers and computer scientists.

"We are incredibly grateful to members of the community, like Klaus and Anna Otten, who recognize the importance of higher education and understand the value of Wright State University to our region," said Sue Edwards, president of Wright State University. "This generous gift from the Otten family will greatly enhance our ability to educate the workforce of tomorrow."

Before Klaus Otten passed away in May 2017, he donated a trust in the name of his late wife, Anna, to the university to create the Otten Scholars Society in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The trust, which consisted of stocks, mutual funds and municipal bonds, was recently liquidated to provide nearly \$2.5 million for student scholarships.

While the bulk of the Ottens' estate came to Wright State University following their deaths, it was important

to Klaus Otten to launch the scholarship while he was still living. Otten began making cash contributions to the scholarship fund as a tribute to his beloved wife, Anna. The scholarship also gave Otten the opportunity to meet his scholarship recipients and learn about their hopes and dreams for the future.

"Klaus was a very kind, giving man—the type of person that you think of as a grandfather or father figure," said Daniel Lecklider, who was the first of the Otten Scholars. "I was very blessed to meet him while he was still living. I'm very thankful for that."

For Lecklider, who graduated from Wright State in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, the Ottens' scholarship was invaluable in helping to finance his college education. "The scholarship took the burden off me and allowed me to really focus on learning and the pursuit of knowledge," he said.

One unique aspect of the Otten Scholars Society is that each student is charged with creating a personal leadership development plan. This requirement was especially important to Klaus Otten, who believed

that the growth and development of people was the highest calling of leadership.

"That was one of the cool things that I really enjoyed about the scholarship—being able to set concrete, well-defined goals for myself," recalled Lecklider, who is employed as a software engineer with the cyber solutions group at Radiance Technologies.

While current and future Otten Scholars will not have the opportunity to review their leadership development plans with Klaus Otten as Lecklider did, they will still explore how they can utilize their talents and abilities to serve others.

"This is a significant contribution toward increasing student retention and success," said Brian Rigling, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. "Not only will the Otten Scholars pursue their engineering degrees with fewer financial barriers, they will also benefit from the self-reflection, goal setting and leadership development that are woven into the Otten Scholars program."

Learning about Klaus Otten's personal story and his professional accomplishments made a lasting impact on Lecklider. Otten was born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1929. He grew up in the war-torn country when its educational system prepared children to view their purpose in life as service to the state. This suppression of freedom and the massive destruction wrought by World War II deeply affected Otten and forever shaped his values.

Otten studied engineering at the Technical University of Stuttgart. Following his immigration to the United States, he began a career as a project engineer with the U.S. Air Force in the communications laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1956. In the 1960s, Otten became manager of advanced development and research in innovative information technologies at NCR. Serving as project manager for the ZIP code reading system was among Otten's many career accomplishments.

"That was before any digital protocols," Lecklider said. "To try to solve that problem in a completely analog manner kind of blew my mind."

Like her husband, Anna Otten's young life was also disrupted by political unrest. Born in Bohemia, which is now part of the modern-day Czech Republic, Otten was expelled from her home after World War II and all of her belongings were confiscated by anti-German communist Czech nationalists. She fled on foot, with the help of her classmates, to West Germany. As a refugee, she became an interpreter for the French Occupation Army.

Anna Otten was able to enter Canada under an immigrant permit sponsored by a doctor. With the support of her sponsor, she entered Waterloo College, earning degrees in French and German and eventually her Ph.D. in French literature. In 1956, she began teaching German and French at Antioch College in Yellow Springs. She was well known for her studies and interpretation of the German-born poet and novelist Herman Hesse. She would frequently travel to France to meet young, up-and-coming French authors.

"She was very smart and talented," said Reed Robertson, a longtime friend of the Ottens, who served as a trustee for Anna's trust. "She was a delightful person to be around."

Robertson feels confident that if the Ottens were still alive, they would be proud of their scholarship and its impact on the lives of Wright State students. While the Otten Scholars Society was launched less than a year before Klaus Otten's passing, he was able to begin seeing the results of his philanthropy.

"He was very pleased with the way things turned out," said Robertson. "He strived to engage people on how to advance computer science—that was his chief interest. And he wanted to do something to help more talented students go to college."



Keeping talent at home

Wright State's partnership with Leidos helps build a skilled and diverse workforce

When E Comte interned at Leidos, he not only gained real-world experience, he landed a full-time job after graduation.

"As soon as I started here, I felt like I was doing real work," said Comte, who began interning at Leidos in May 2017. "That really prepared me for what it's like to be a software developer. I was doing stuff that everybody else was doing. It's hard getting thrown into it like that, but it was nice to experience that."

By the time Comte graduated from Wright State University in May 2019 with a bachelor's degree in computer science, he knew he had a job waiting for him as a junior software developer at Leidos.

Comte is one of nearly 100 Wright State graduates who currently work out of Leidos's Beavercreek office. Thanks to a strong partnership between Leidos and the university, Comte won't be the last Raider to join the global, 36,000-employee Fortune 500 company. In today's highly competitive job market, Leidos has nurtured a pipeline of talent from Wright State.

"Leidos's partnership with Wright State University has been a central factor in our continued success and growth in Dayton," said David A. Burke, Leidos vice president and division manager. "Our partnership provides us the opportunity to build long-term relationships with students so that they are fully engaged on day one. With Wright State, we have also been able to build a more diverse workforce, which is critical for being innovative and responsive to today's dynamic environment."

As president of Wright State's student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Alliah Turner has witnessed Leidos's commitment to diversity firsthand. Through its Strategic University Alliance Program, Leidos helps support multiple student organizations across campus that promote diversity in the STEM fields.

Thanks to Leidos, several students in Wright State's chapter have been able to attend regional NSBE conferences and the annual convention. Turner said that 70% of the NSBE members who attended those conferences walked away with full-time jobs or internship offers.

"Without Leidos, Wright State's NSBE chapter wouldn't be able to travel to these conferences and experience some of the amazing connections that are made there, or successfully put on some of our more important events," said Turner. "Leidos is the major contributor to the success of our organization, and I don't think that we could make each year possible without their help."

Leidos has also sponsored the annual Innovation Weekend, organized by the College of Science and Mathematics, where Leidos staff provide a significant, real-world problem for students to solve. They also mentor the students as they formulate their solutions.

"Leidos has been a fantastic partner in supporting student innovation and entrepreneurship," said Douglas Leaman, former dean of the College of Science and Mathematics who is now serving as interim provost. "The value that this adds to the academic life of participating students is readily apparent, and I hear from participants almost weekly about how the opportunity positively impacted their student experience at Wright State."

Benjamin Mostyn, who works as a product liaison for Leidos's intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance portfolios, is impressed with the talent he's seen coming out of Wright State.

"They're sharp. They're hungry. They're learning all of the new technologies," said Mostyn. "They have performed quite well."

Mostyn recalled one Wright State intern who figured out how to automate some of Leidos's documentation, such as installation and user manuals. The intern built a prototype within a week, and the company still uses it today.

Internships have come a long way since senior systems engineer and two-time Wright State graduate Paul Hannen was in college. Hannen remembers a time when summer interns did nothing more than just help out with random tasks around the office. Today, summer interns get hands-on, real-world experience.

"We hand them a project and they come back two and a half months later. Nine times out of 10 the project is done," said Hannen, who also serves as adjunct faculty in the Department of Electrical Engineering. "We're using software packages that were developed by interns. They're doing actual, honest-to-God work."

With a win-win partnership that benefits both Wright State and Leidos, this ongoing collaboration seems like the perfect match.

"Leidos shares our commitment to building a skilled workforce, as well as our focus on inclusion and diversity initiatives that engage underrepresented students in engineering and computer science," said Brian Rigling, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. "We are grateful for Leidos's continued partnership, and we believe it is a model for how higher education and corporations can work together toward common goals."

Leidos is a Fortune 500® information technology, engineering, and science solutions and services leader working to solve the world's toughest challenges in the defense, intelligence, homeland security, civil, and health markets. The company's 36,000 employees support vital missions for government and commercial customers.

Leidos has established a Strategic University Alliance with Wright State University and more than 30 other higher learning institutions in order to build relationships with faculty, staff, and students and support various on-campus events. The company actively recruits through this alliance, with the most targeted college majors being computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, systems engineering, information technology, information systems, mechanical engineering, aerospace engineering, biomedical engineering, finance, and business.



Kearstyn Brown, french major,
Wright State University

The impossible dream

Scholarships help Kearstyn Bowen pursue a degree in French and study abroad

Life has not been easy for Kearstyn Bowen. Growing up in Cincinnati, the junior French major lived in a three-bedroom, one-bathroom home that housed five adults and five children. Her mom taught at a daycare center, and her father repaired garage doors. When Bowen turned 14, she began working at McDonald's.

"It was the only place I could find a job so young," said Bowen. "I wasn't making a ton of money, but every bit of what I did make I used to buy dinner for my three little brothers, who were 2, 4, and 11 at the time. This way we didn't have to take turns skipping meals quite as often."

Bowen realized that if she was going to break her family's cycle of poverty, she needed to get the best education she could. Scholarships enabled her to attend Ursuline Academy, where she first discovered her passion for French.

"I read the book *Le Petit Prince* senior year, and I couldn't walk away from the language," Bowen explained.

The emergency fund in the College of Liberal Arts gave Bowen the funding she needed to come to Wright State. She also worked multiple jobs to make ends meet. During her first semester, Bowen's parents filed bankruptcy and separated.

"Even from Dayton, I was sending my mom everything I possibly could to help feed the boys and pay the bills she couldn't quite take care of on her own," said Bowen. "To this day, even after the bankruptcy and divorce have been settled, I still send her any money I can spare to make sure she stays on her own two feet."

With all of the personal and financial turmoil in Bowen's life, studying abroad in France seemed like an impossible dream. Once again, scholarships helped Bowen's dream become a reality.

"That trip changed my life forever," said Bowen. "The pure confidence I gained from using the language for a month in France further strengthened my ability. The trip also solidified my love for the French language and culture, as well as reaffirming my decision to become a teacher."

Thanks to the Pierre L. Horn Endowed Scholarship, Bowen will return to France once again. Horn, who taught French at Wright State for 24 years before retiring in 1999, established the scholarship to help French majors travel to France or other areas where French is the native language, so they can improve their speaking abilities.

"I can't believe I even get to say that I'm going back to France! Receiving this scholarship is yet another push to keep working hard and to keep believing in myself," said Bowen. "While I still have to take out loans to support my education, every scholarship helps ease the stress and burden of those loans on my future. Scholarships allow me to take a breath and enjoy the current moment knowing that someone has believed in me and invested in my future."

After graduation, Bowen hopes to move to France and teach English. Wherever life takes her, she will always be grateful for the scholarship support she has received as a Wright State student.

"I would like to say thank you to everyone who has donated to a scholarship fund, giving students, like myself, hope that they can one day rise from their wreckage and become someone incredible," said Bowen. "So many students have a story like mine, one of struggle and hope for the future. All of us have been affected differently by the events of our lives, but the one constant for all of us is the chance you have given us to make a change in our stories."



Pierre Horn

When Pierre Horn began his Wright State career in 1975, he was one of only two professors teaching French language, literature, and civilization. Horn received numerous recognitions for his work, including being named the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research. "Wright State was very good to me," said Horn, "so I felt the minimum gratitude that I could show was to give some support to students."

To express his appreciation, Horn established a scholarship for students majoring in French. While he initially thought about making a bequest in his will to fund the scholarship, Horn decided he wanted to experience the joy of seeing his scholarship impact the lives of current students. Kearstyn Bowen is the first recipient of Horn's scholarship.



Sonja Wolf '18, an MBA student, and Aaron Brautigam, a human resources management major

Two students elected to the Wright State Foundation Board of Trustees

Sonja Wolf and Aaron Brautigam are the newest student members of the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees, after being elected by the full board in May 2019.

The Foundation Board is made up of select alumni and other friends of the university and includes two seats for students each year. Board members also serve on several committees. Brautigam is a member of the Grants Committee, which focuses on the Students First Fund, an endeavor that supports student success at Wright State. Wolf is a member of the Governance Committee and is tasked with finding new members to serve on the Foundation Board.

Brautigam and Wolf hope to learn and excel in their positions, while also keeping the opinions of their fellow students in mind. Brautigam's main goal is to continue to take the Students First Fund to new heights.

"I really want to focus on the Students First Fund," said Brautigam, a human resources management

major. "I want to take that program and continue to help it grow and be successful."

"I want to stand up for those who are not on the board and give students a voice to express their concerns and opinions," said Wolf, who graduated from Wright State in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in human resources management and business management. She is now in the MBA program in the Raj Soin College of Business.

The opportunity to join the Foundation Board excites both Wolf and Brautigam. Wolf said she "loves Wright State and is honored to serve the student body and community in this new way."

Brautigam added, "I've worked with students on almost every level, from my time as an RA to my time now as an orientation coordinator. I am excited to represent students and make sure they are supported."

Foundation names emeriti trustees

The Wright State University Foundation designated several former board members as emeriti trustees.

Ron Amos '76, '84	Jeff Lightner '96
Eric Bigler '83, '87	Randy Phillips '82
Michael Di Flora '72	Bill Pohlman '76
Joe Gruenberg	Malte vonMatthiessen

Andrea Kunk, chair of the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees, said the eight individuals honored with the status of emeritus trustee were selected for their exemplary service to the foundation board and their continued support of Wright State University.

"We really wanted people who had shown engagement throughout their time here on the board," said Kunk. "Those are the type of people that will bring great knowledge and passion to us."

For Jeff Lightner '96, being an emeritus trustee gives him the opportunity to stay in touch with his alma mater and to add value.

"I'm certainly honored to be an emeritus trustee," said Lightner, "and I think it comes with a responsibility. The responsibility that I have is to be an ambassador in the community about all of the great things that are happening at the university and the foundation."

Along with continuing his role as a longtime ambassador for Wright State, emeritus trustee Malte vonMatthiessen looks forward to sharing his past experiences with current and future trustees.

"All of us together bring an important historical context, because we've been involved over decades as part of this institution," said vonMatthiessen.

Through his service on the foundation board, emeritus trustee Joe Gruenberg developed a deep



appreciation for the university and the impact it makes on students.

"What keeps me engaged is to listen to students and their stories about how their lives changed because of foundation scholarships and how the university enabled them to continue their education," Gruenberg explained.

Michael Di Flora '72 served on the foundation board because he wanted to make a difference. He hopes to continue to share his expertise and influence the future of the foundation as an emeritus trustee.

"You can't make a difference if you're not on the team," Di Flora explained. "As long as you stay in the game, there's always an opportunity to make a difference and have an influence on the future success of the organization."

For Ron Amos '76, serving as an emeritus trustee is just one more way of giving back to the university that has changed the lives of more than 115,000 alumni.

"Look at the impact Wright State has had on this community," said Amos. "Imagine if Wright State had never existed. We would be far inferior to where we are today."

About the Foundation

The Wright State University Foundation is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation that receives and administers gifts for Wright State University. Although closely related to the university, the foundation is a separate and distinct charitable organization and its affairs are directed and supervised by its own board of trustees.

Our Vision / The Wright State University Foundation’s vision is to be a best-in-class foundation, matching the resources, passion, and commitment of our donors with the needs of students and the strategic direction of the university.

Our Mission / The Wright State University Foundation’s mission is to partner with Wright State University in promoting and facilitating a culture of engagement and philanthropy by raising funds and managing and distributing the resources entrusted to us in support of the university’s mission and priorities.

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Contact Us

Thank you for supporting Wright State University! Learn more about the ways you can continue to impact the lives of students and the community by contacting us:

In person: 3070 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324
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A message from Scott Rash, Foundation President & CEO
“On behalf of Wright State University and the Foundation, thank you for making these opportunities possible for our students.”


Looking for more information?
The Foundation’s financial statements were audited by Crowe Horwath LLP. If you would like a complete copy of the Foundation’s audited financial statements, please visit our website at wright.edu/giving/financial-reports or call 937-775-2251.



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