

# The Extension



## President's Message: Judi Engle

The end of an era, the COVID era and good riddance. This spring we moved back into social and educational activities full throttle. After nearly three years of isolation, it was a breath of fresh air.

On the following page are photos from the spring banquet, attended by sixty individuals. Our guest speaker was Eric Leckey, a Wright State alum and high ranking officer in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Our annual Lewis K. Shupe Faculty Service Award went to Abe Bassett, who developed Wright State's widely recognized Department of Theatre Arts, Motion Pictures, and Dance and was instrumental in the design of the Creative Arts Building. Carol Stevenson received the Richard A. Johnson Staff Service Award. Retired from the Bursar's office, she held numerous leadership positions at Wright State and even opened her home to students.

We are working on our fall programming and hope you will attend one or all. The first is "Medicare Simplified" scheduled for September 11. (See page 8 for details.) We are also in the planning stages for a program on Charles Taylor (the Wright Brothers' mechanic and engine builder), the engineering challenge of small invertebrates on modern systems, the political primaries, and the continuing war in Ukraine.

Look for more details and registration info on these events in the WSURA e-newsletters and in your email. On page 7 are photos from some of our spring events. You might spot yourself or former colleagues.

Through the years WSURA has been fortunate to have great volunteer leaders. We are pleased to announce our officers for 2023-2024:

**President**, Richard Williams (one-year term)-2024

**President Elect**, Barbara Bullock (one-year term)-2024

**Past President**, Judi Engle (one-year term)-2024

**Treasurer**, Carolyn Smith (by appointment)-2024

**Secretary**, Gail Whittaker-2025

**Webmaster**, Robin Suits-2025

**Communications Coordinator**, Mary Kenton-2024

For a complete list of all those who have accepted positions that make WSURA a vibrant organization, see page 6. If you would like to become more involved, we can facilitate that. Just send us an email ([wsura@wright.edu](mailto:wsura@wright.edu)).

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### Upcoming Events

September 11, 5:30 p.m.  
"Medicare Simplified"  
Student Union, Discovery Room

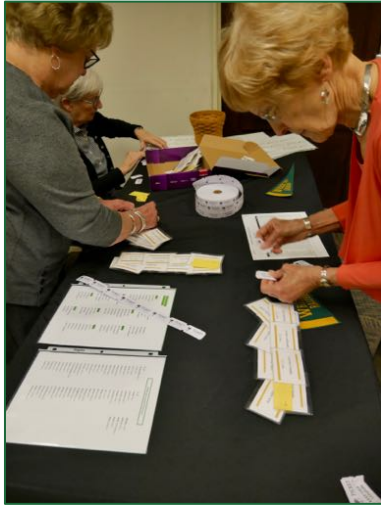
### Important Note

WSURA is in the process of publishing a new directory to be mailed to all members. Have you moved or changed your phone number? Since much of our communication is by email, do we have yours? Send updates and corrections to [wsura@wright.edu](mailto:wsura@wright.edu)





Photos from WSURA's Annual Spring Banquet



LAST ROW:  
Guest Speaker Eric Leckey, associate administrator for mission support at FEMA;  
Abe Bassett, recipient of the Lewis K. Shupe Faculty Service Award;  
and Carol Stevenson, recipient of the Richard A. Johnson Staff Service Award.

## Poetry Corner

### Meatballs

by David Lee Garrison

My dog tells me  
she hasn't eaten  
for days  
when what is causing  
her relentless display  
of pathos—the litany  
of groans, the big wet eyes  
that pleading look  
is the smell of meatballs  
in tomato sauce  
and Marsala wine  
simmering on the stove.

I tell her to wait  
She tells me it is hard  
to wait and I agree  
I'm hungry too.  
I promise her a taste  
and for a moment  
she is quiet.  
She understands  
every word I say  
and knows now  
she's got me  
by the meatballs.



David Garrison

Greetings from retired professor of Spanish and Portuguese, former chair of Modern Languages, and poet. As a new member of the WSURA Board, I have been invited to create a regular poetry column for this newsletter, which I am delighted to do. It will feature poets from near and far, now and then. It will all be understandable because, in my book, poetry is communication.

I am starting with one of my own poems, and I hope you enjoy it. I trust you will identify with the scene, especially if you have a dog.

## Ghost Campus

For many years the Retirees Association had office space on the second floor of the Foundation Building, where no one ever expected to see a student. But as you may know from reading this newsletter, we were asked to vacate for a new client who might pay rent. Space was found for us on the third floor of Fawcett Hall, which in many ways is even nicer than what we had before. Our space is directly adjacent to the AAUP offices, and we seem to be the only residents of the floor. Fawcett was once a bustling classroom building where, during the early 1970s, I had many classes. Now, it's rare for us to see anyone but each other, and it should be noted that we generally use the space for only a couple of hours a couple of times a month for Board and Executive Committee meetings. Fawcett seems well maintained and ready to receive students and faculty whenever they are ready to come back.



Millett Hall is another story. I spent many, many years as a resident of Millett Hall, first on the fourth floor as a graduate assistant, then on the first floor where Honors used to be before it moved up to the second floor, sometime in the 1990s maybe. I had not been on the second floor of Millett since I retired in 2011. After the June board meeting, I decided to go exploring. There were men outside of the building apparently dealing with some crumbling cement on the façade and the wheelchair ramp. No one tried to stop me when I walked inside to the atrium, where there were more workers who seemed to be concerned with something about the ceiling. I walked past the elevators and was surprised to see someone sitting at a desk in the Dean's office.

I went up the stairs to the second floor, thinking I might peek in the windows. Much to my surprise, the door to the Honors suite was unlocked. None of the workers paid any attention to me. I might have been invisible. I walked in and had a look around. I was surprised to see all the furniture still in place in the lobby. On the wall were plaques commemorating people and events. The hall was lined with framed posters from the many Honors Institutes. When I retired, I left two framed Matisse prints hanging in my office. They were faded and had migrated to the director's office, which looked almost as though someone had left in a hurry and didn't have time to pack everything up. The metaphor that most immediately occurred to me was Chernobyl. It seemed like something awful had happened and people were forced to flee in a rush.

As I left, I scanned the environment. There was no one else outside. Maybe the workers had gone to lunch. The only other life form I could spot was a goose standing on the quad. The moat was drained, so that didn't provide an explanation for his presence, although he did seem to use it as a latrine. I looked towards Allyn Hall, but it seemed in terrible disrepair. I stood there for a minute or two remembering different sights: boats in the moat, students sitting on the ledges around the quad—studying, eating lunch, chatting with friends—the preachers who showed up periodically to exhort the masses to repent, kites flying overhead.

Feeling not just nostalgic but also a little depressed, I headed for my car in the nearly empty Fawcett parking lot. It is hard to know what the future holds for Wright State. It came into being to serve the needs of baby boomers and for many years had to build continuously to keep up with the demand. Now that the largest generation ever has retired and many current students prefer online courses, so much space is no longer needed. The institution will have to continue to remake itself to survive and prosper. We must trust that the politicians, the university administration, and the community at large will remain up to the task of taking Wright State where it needs to go to best serve our various constituencies.

*By Mary Kenton*

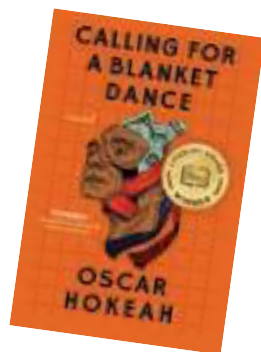
## University Libraries 2023-2024 Book Club

Join us for the 2023-2024 Book Club sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries, Wright State University Alumni Association, and the Wright State University Retirees' Association. Book discussions will be held on select evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. online via WebEx. Dates and titles for this year's discussion are listed below:

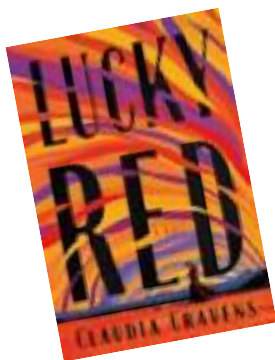


**September 21, 2023** — *The Summers*, by Ronya Othman, translated by Gary Schmidt (translator, Dr. Gary Schmidt, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, will be attending)

**November 16, 2023** — *Calling for a Blanket Dance*, by Oscar Hokeah



**January 18, 2024** — *Lucky Red*, by Claudia Cravens



**March 21, 2024** — The Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Fiction

More information, including links to registration, the online events, and the books in the WSU Libraries collections will be posted soon. Watch the Libraries' website and social media platforms for details. If you'd like to be included on the book club's email list, please contact us at [library-give@wright.edu](mailto:library-give@wright.edu).

Not already a Friends of the Libraries member? Check out our webpage: [libraries.wright.edu/friends](http://libraries.wright.edu/friends) for more information on the Friends and how to join.

## Is Being Woke a Bad Thing?

Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida sometimes seems obsessed with the word “woke.” He defines it as “the belief that there are systematic injustices in American society and the need to address them,” according to his general counsel, who was quoted in *The Washington Post* on January 20, 2023. When DeSantis delivered his election night victory speech, he thundered, “We reject woke ideology. We will never surrender to the woke agenda.” He went so far as to sign a Stop Woke Act into law. He is fond of saying Florida is “where woke goes to die.” Others on the right blame being woke “for everything from deadly mass shootings to lower military recruitment.” (*The New Yorker Political Scene Podcast*, January 30, 2023). Nikki Haley called wokeness “a virus more dangerous than any pandemic, hands down.” Anti-wokeness “tends to be an across-the-board denunciation of progressive values and liberal initiatives.” (*USA Today*, April 28, 2023) It's a way to denigrate trans and gay rights and ban teaching anything about institutional racism in American society.

The concept of woke was used in the Black community as early as 1923 by Marcus Garvey, a Pan-African activist, who worked to unite all peoples of African descent. The great Blues artist Lead Belly used the word in a song about the Scottsboro boys. Being “woke” meant that you were informed and educated about the conditions of life in segregated America.

It is impossible to teach American history without references to slavery, Jim Crow, lynchings, and segregation. Institutional racism impacted everything in America long after slavery was abolished. It kept Black citizens, whose families had been here for hundreds of years, from voting. It ensured a substandard education for Black children. It took the lives of hundreds of Black men accused of such crimes as looking at white women in the “wrong” way. It's not coincidental that trans and gay people have also been summarily murdered by mobs, though the numbers are far less. Ron DeSantis apparently thinks Florida high school students can't handle AP American History. Perhaps he's afraid it might eventually wake them enough to vote for someone else.

By Mary Kenton

## Cupboard Meals

Most experienced cooks have at least a few meals they can put together even though they haven't been to the grocery for a while. My mother almost always had the wherewithal for a pot of pinto beans and some cornbread. Breakfast could be concocted from old boxes of oatmeal or cream of wheat. Milk was technically required, though that was no problem because Brownie the milkman brought it twice a week. For lunch there was always peanut butter and jelly.

One of my all-time favorite cupboard meals, one that I still cook at least a couple of times a year, is salmon patties, macaroni and cheese, and frozen green peas.

My mother (always addressed as Mother, never Mom) who introduced me to this meal, used recipes only for baking, so I came up with my own version of salmon patties. This is the first time I've ever tried to write it down. It's like meatloaf. For years, every time she wanted to make meatloaf, my daughter would call and ask me to walk her through the steps. Eventually, she mastered the process and now thinks her version is better than mine. So, here goes:

### Salmon Patties

You will need:

A can of wild sockeye red salmon (small can makes 2, large can 4)

1 egg beaten with a fork

Chopped green onion—as much as you think you might like



Cracker meal—start small and add until mixture holds together

Salt, pepper, and a splash of tobasco if you like a touch of heat

Form into patties. Heat a tablespoon or two of butter and olive oil in an appropriately sized skillet. Add patties carefully and cook for a few minutes on each side until patties are nicely browned. Some people like a cheese sauce, but if you go the macaroni route, that's probably enough cheese. A twig of parsley on the top and lemon wedges on the side are festive but not necessary.

*By Mary Kenton*

## WSURA Board 2023–2024

### Executive Committee

President: Dick Williams  
 President Elect: Barbara Bullock  
 Past President: Judi Engle  
 Secretary: Gail Whitaker  
 Treasurer: Carolyn Smith  
 Communications: Mary Kenton  
 Webmaster: Robin Suits

### Board Members at Large

Dan Abrahamowicz  
 Jerry Alter  
 Gary Barlow  
 David Garrison  
 Joyce Howes  
 Gordon Walbroehl

### Standing Committees

Activities: Mary Gromosiak  
 By-Laws/Elections: Joyce Howes  
 Communications: Mary Kenton  
 Historical Preservation: Kathy Morris  
 Membership Development: Judi Engle  
 Publications: Judi Engle  
 Remembrance: Peggy Bott  
 Scholarship: Jerry Alter  
 Ohio Council of Higher Education  
 Retirees:  
     PERS: Barbara Bullock  
     STRS: Dick Williams

### Liaisons

Alumni Affairs: Dick Williams  
 Community Affairs: Donna Schlagheck  
 Friends of the Libraries: Peggy Bott  
 Raider Food Pantry: Kathy Morris

## Contact Us

E-mail: [wsura@wright.edu](mailto:wsura@wright.edu)  
 Website: [wright.edu/wsura](http://wright.edu/wsura)  
 Facebook.com/groups/WSURA



## Nick Davis Scholarship Recipients Announced

WSURA has awarded \$1,500 Nick Davis Endowed Scholarships to each of the following outstanding students.

**John D. Gray** is a Management Information Systems (MIS) major who expects to graduate in spring 2025. He was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome as an adult and says Wright State's disability-related services made it seem like the perfect choice.

**Logan MacGregor**, a Wayne High School graduate, is a Middle Childhood Education major and is the brother of Lauren MacGregor, a former staff and Foundation Board of Trustees member. Logan has a strong history of community service and has held a paying job since he was 15.



**Amalia R. Petreman** is majoring in Liberal Studies and Studio Art. She is the daughter of fellow retiree David Petreman.

Already fluent in Spanish, thanks to her dad, she has focused on French in college along with photography and art history.

The fourth recipient is another MIS major, **Eric Tomlinson**, who plans to go on to graduate school for a degree in Business Analytics after acquiring some work experience. He is a single father to four children.

If you want to support such students you can make credit card donations through the Wright State University Foundation. ([wright.edu/give](http://wright.edu/give) and then search for the Nick Davis Scholarship Fund)

By Mary Kenton

## Recap for WSURA

Our spring activities took on a pre-COVID look, and we expect to continue with interesting and varied activities for the upcoming year. Stay tuned.

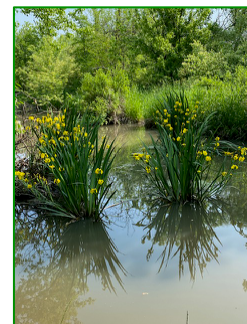
*"Communication Information about Disinformation" with Melissa Spirek, Professor of Communication, School of Social Sciences and International Studies.*



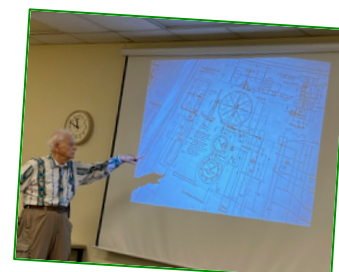
*"The Moorehead Circle at Fort Ancient" with Robert Riordan, retired professor of anthropology and retired chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology*



*"Wetland Wanders" led by emeritus professor David Goldstein, retired chair of Biological Sciences and chair of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association*



*"The Genius of the Wright Brothers & Construction of the 1903 Flyer," presented by Rubin Battino, emeritus professor of chemistry, with Friends of the Library*





# WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

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Cut off dates for articles:

Nov. 15 — Winter

Feb. 15 — Spring

Aug. 15 — Fall

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## Mark Your Calendars!

WSURA and the Provost Office of Faculty Affairs have organized a free seminar on Medicare for all faculty and staff who have retired or are planning to retire soon. Even if you are already receiving Medicare benefits you will find this seminar helpful.

It is scheduled for Monday, September 11, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Student Union Discovery Room. Scott Donahue, from Medicare Simplified, an independent organization that does not sell insurance or represent any insurance company or government agency, will be the presenter. It will also be useful for those who have supplemental plans available from a previous employer, a union, or the military. It is important to review your options outside of Medicare and within Medicare and not assume one option is your best choice. Even if you determine it is in your best interest to enroll in Medicare at a later date, you still need to consider important Medicare rules to avoid costly mistakes.

The seminar is free, but advance registration is required. All attendees will receive a handout to follow along and take notes. Look for more information, including how to register, coming to your email or on our website ([wright.edu/wsura](http://wright.edu/wsura)) soon.

*By Robin Suits*