It is summertime, and the parking is easy…I have observed these past several years that summer appears as the calm after the storm. The crush of students, faculty and staff is significantly lightened. It gives us a hint of what Wright State would be like without its vibrant, colorful, diverse, exciting student body.

On the other hand, many students take advantage of the opportunity to keep moving on their studies, taking a ramped up, accelerated version of a required course, typically delivered with a smaller class size, giving them more interactions with their peers and with the faculty. Whether you are teaching, doing research, or taking a much needed vacation, I hope you have a little more time to check out CoSM news. In this issue, CoSM faculty are nationally and internationally recognized, as Julian Cambronero (BMB) is chosen to organize an international meeting in his specialty, cancer and phospholipid signaling (page 8), and Harry Khamis (M&S) receives a top award in his field of statistics (page 7).

Alumni from our College continue to shine and serve as ambassadors for the College of Science and Mathematics, as an alumnus takes an extraordinary and unique journey to space in the name of enhancing science education (page 5), and an impressive number of the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship awards go to our alumni, to support their teaching in the STEM disciplines in our at-risk schools (page 6). Finally, here at CoSM we celebrate diversity, and in this issue highlight women in science. First, outstanding master’s student Ellen Ricker comes away with the top award for a Woman in Science at a Midwest Graduate Research Symposium (page 3). Second, the College wants you to know about the Women in Science Giving Circle, a grass roots organization of people who support women’s success at every level, who put their money together to support scholarships for women undergraduates and grant money for women faculty (page 4). Although it originated in the College, the group supports women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM). So, quiet as the summer may appear, exciting activities go on. Please join me in celebrating our excellence….

Best,
Yi Li, Ph.D., Dean
Dental destiny

Wright State student and Air Force first lieutenant is bound for dental school. He is finishing up his Post-Bac Certificate in Pre-Medical Studies, a new Wright State program offered by the College of Science and Mathematics that enables students to study the sciences and prepare for entrance into competitive professional programs in the health sciences.

Jun Kyung Ko, an aerospace engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, is finishing a new program that prepares students for professional health science programs.

Jun Kyung Ko was one of four people to win a coveted scholarship from the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship program, which will help him attend dental school.

Ko’s journey to Wright State was one of setbacks and determination.

“My life really has been like a movie,” he says.

Ko was born in Seoul, South Korea. His parents divorced just as Ko graduated from elementary school. For the next four years, he lived in a single-parent home and essentially had to take care of the house, himself and his younger sister.

At 16, he moved to Phoenix to live with his mother. There, one of his instructors in junior ROTC was a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and former F-16 fighter pilot. “When I looked at him, wow; he was my inspiration. I wanted to be just like him,” Ko said...

After a number of setbacks, Ko gained his U.S. citizenship and a scholarship from the Air Force Health Professions Program with a new found passion to help others through dentistry.
Ellen Ricker is working on her master’s degree in anatomy at Wright State University, and is a neuroscience researcher investigating how opiates such as morphine can affect the carotid bodies and stop a person from breathing. “A lot of people who die from opiate overdoses do so from the side effects and a reduction in the drive to breathe,” she said. “This is very clinically relevant. A lot of the research done at Wright State is very clinically relevant.”

Ricker’s work will be published, and one of her abstracts will be presented at a conference of the International Society of Arterial Chemoreception in the United Kingdom in July. Christopher Wyatt is her advisor and Principle Investigator on the research. During the recent Midwest Graduate Research Symposium at the University of Toledo, Ricker won the Women in Science award as the top female researcher in a STEM field.

Wright State honors a graduating senior from each college as Top Scholar

Since 1995 a book has been purchased by the Parents Association and Friends of the Library to honor a Top Scholar from each college. Scholars were selected by their dean from a list of seniors with GPA’s of 3.6 or higher.

Congratulations to Larrilyn Louise Yelton from the College of Science and Mathematics. Larrilyn is a Biological Sciences major. The book selected and donated in her honor is Evolution and Medicine by Robert L. Pearlman.

Larrilyn Louise Yelton from CoSM is pictured with Biological Sciences chair David Goldstein and interim University Librarian Sheila Shellabarger.

Read the full article>>
It was more than just a $5,000 grant to a Wright State University biology professor, enabling her to further her own research and that of her students by purchasing a high-tech system to better record animal heart and breathing rates, body temperatures and brain activity.

The grant awarded to Lynn Hartzler, Ph.D., from the Women in Science Giving Circle also represented an organized effort to enhance the educational and professional success of female students and faculty members in STEMM disciplines at Wright State.

“The generosity of donors to this giving circle has not only benefited my career, but has also provided opportunities for students that I would not otherwise have been able to give them,” Hartzler said.

Started in 2009 by the then dean, Michele Wheatly, and assistant dean, Stacia Edwards, of the College of Science and Mathematics, the Giving Circle consists of individuals and other sources who through their contributions become participating members of the circle.

“In most collegiate STEMM fields at the undergraduate level, there are roughly the same number of males and females. But at the faculty level, there are far more men than women,” said Kathrin Engisch, Ph.D., associate dean for undergraduate education and outreach...“Awards from the Giving Circle are a way of more formally trying to increase those steps up,” she said. Engisch said there are plans to grow the giving circle by increasing the number of donors and corporate sponsors.

“One thing I see in our future is that by putting all of our voices together, we are able to be heard.”

~ Kathrin Engisch

Kathrin Engisch, associate dean for undergraduate education and outreach, says plans are under-way to expand the Women in Science Giving Circle.

Learn More about The Circle

View WISGC celebration video>>
In our Winter 2014 newsletter we announced that Wright State University alumnus Tom Jenkins was selected to participate in a two-person team for NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, or SOFIA. Jenkins, who teaches science at Indian Valley Middle School in Enon, Ohio, was a crew member on several flights of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy in May. The flights were part of NASA’s flying-classroom-for-teachers program.

“As we walked down the runway toward the plane, I was flooded with emotion,” Jenkins said. “I knew that what I was about to experience would be one of the highlights of my life. I was going to witness science at its highest level.” Inside, Jenkins was sitting backwards at a research station, strapped snugly into his seat. “The pilot punched it, and it was quite a rush to feel the immense power of the four-engine 747,” he said. “In the blink of an eye we were at altitude.”

The aircraft is a highly modified Boeing 747 outfitted with a infrared telescope that allowed a view into the universe from an open garage-door-sized panel. They took off from the Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility in Palmdale, Calif. The plane carried two teams of educators as well as scientists, engineers and astronomers from NASA and universities around the world—29 people in all.

“I was excited to be able to geek out with people that are at the pinnacle of their professions,” “To be able to work with NASA-level astronomers and astrophysicists was incredible.”
Psychology Alumnus publishes his first novel

Junaid Asad, who earned a Master of Science in Psychology (Human Factors) from Wright State University in 2005, just released his first novel "And We Remained". Set in the 1990’s, it follows a group of friends as they deal with the socio-economic and cultural transformations taking place in Bangalore, India.

Junaid currently works as a Senior User Experience Designer at Oracle in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. Learn more about the Human Factors program>>

Nine CoSM graduates named for 2014 Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowships!

The Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship recruits top-quality teacher candidates to teach math and science in high-need Ohio schools. The Fellows include both accomplished career changers and outstanding recent college graduates, all with previous STEMM backgrounds. They complete a rigorous master’s program that includes a full year of practical experience in local classrooms, then commit to teach for three years with ongoing mentoring and support. Read the release>>

Congratulations to our distinguished recipients!

State of Ohio Awards

Jaron Fischer | Dayton, OH
  • Wright State University ’13, mathematics
Aimee Ginnever | Centerville, OH
  • Wright State University ’11, earth and environmental science
Jean Goettemoeller | Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
  • Wright State University ’14, mathematics
Brian Haley | Dayton, OH
  • Wright State University ’05, mathematics
Nathaniel Hatton | Dayton, OH
  • Wright State University ’12, biological sciences
Gregory Koth | West Alexandria, OH
  • Wright State University ’14, mathematics education
Markeata Lee | Cedarville, OH
  • Central State University ’11, chemistry
  • Wright State University ’14, M.S. chemistry
Cynthia Rogers | Dayton, OH
  • Wright State University ’10, psychology/behavioral neuroscience

State of Indiana awards

Morgan Lloyd | Huber Heights, OH | Will attend: Ball State University
  • Wright State University ’14, math education

Board of Regents Chancellor John Carey said the Fellows will bring additional firepower to one of the noblest professions. “It is crucial that students in our high-need schools have only the best and brightest teachers to help them prepare for the future, and the Woodrow Wilson Fellows fit the bill.

Each Fellow receives a $30,000 stipend while completing a rigorous master’s program at one of seven participating Ohio universities. The Fellows receive a full year of practical experience in local classrooms, then commit to teach for three years in Ohio’s high-need schools. They will be ready to enter their own classrooms fall 2015. Read more>>
Beetle mania: Wright State researcher investigates insect’s secret to long life.

Not the rock band, but blue beetles are insects that may hold the secret to the fountain of youth. Blue beetles, or Asbolus verrucosus, can live up to 17 years—four to five times longer than other beetles. Working to unlock the mystery of these mysterious bugs is Wright State University researcher Dean Rider, Ph.D., a research assistant professor in biochemistry and molecular biology.

What I would like to do with this beetle is sequence its genome and see what’s inside there—try to find interesting things that tell us about its lifestyle, what might make it live that long,” said Rider, Ph.D.

Wright State’s Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. Program celebrates 200 graduates

Biomedical Sciences—administered by the College of Science and Mathematics and largely populated by faculty of the Boonshoft School of Medicine—was established in the late 1970s as the first Ph.D. program at Wright State.

Today, the program features about 100 faculty members from 12 different departments in four different colleges, local hospitals and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Approximately 65 students are currently in the program.

...people need to master the basic principles of statistics such as averages and bar charts in order to fully understand certain research and even grasp the significance of statistics in the news.

~ Khamis

Harry Khamis, Ph.D., professor in the College of Science and Mathematics as well as director of the Statistical Consulting Center, has been named as American Statistical Association Fellow.

This is a prestigious national distinction that honors those at the top of the numbers profession.

Congratulations to Dr. Khamis!

Harry Khamis has taught statistics and calculus at Wright State since 1980.
Retirement News

Join us in congratulating Susan Yeoman, Director of Student Services in The College of Science and Mathematics on her retirement with 25 years of service. Susan started in the Dean's office as a secretary. After earning her BA in Communication Studies, and a M.Ed in Student Affairs Higher Education, Susan was appointed as Director of Student Services.

Susan's reception was April 23, 2014 to celebrate her work, where past students and others had an opportunity to share the huge difference she has made in their academic career and in their life. While she will be missed, we extend our gratitude and best wishes as she begins her much deserved retirement.

STEM City: Home to future scientists, engineers and mathematicians

Located in Hamilton Hall, STEM City is Wright State’s first residential learning community exclusively serving students enrolled in the College of Science and Mathematics (COSM) and the College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS). STEM City gives its residents more opportunities for collaboration, nurtures interest in their discipline and provides access to academic resources.

STEM City is expected to boost GPAs, expand social circles, create faculty-to-student connections and keep its residents interested in the sciences, said Jenny Papadakis, academic advisor for CoSM and founder of STEM City. Read more>>

Professor organizes international conference on inflammation and cancer

Julian G. Cambronero, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research at the Wright State University Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, chaired an international research conference sponsored by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). The June 1-6 international conference focused on the roles cell membrane phospholipids play in inflammation and cancer. Phospholipids are found in all living cells and are the structural basis of cell membranes. The conference will address the latest findings in how phospholipids can help in the treatment of inflammation and cancer. Read More>>
Up-Coming Events

Events:

Staff Development Day 2014
Thursday, August 7, 2014 (All day) Wright State University realizes the vital role its staff plays in achieving our mission of transforming the lives of our students and the communities we serve. As a way to continue that spirit of performance and to assist in lifelong learning, Wright State offers a semi-annual Staff Development Day. At this event, staff are invited to attend a keynote address and breakout sessions on a variety of relevant topics.

Ohio Medical Education (OMED) Day
Saturday, October 18, 2014 8:00am to 4:00pm
Student Union
For Pre-Medical students associated with Ohio colleges and universities. Consists of Keynote speakers, seminars, and Meet the Deans
Registration is required and will open up on September 1, 2014

Learn more>>

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Associate Deans - Mark Mamrack & Kathrin Engisch, Business Manager - Karen Laycock,
Office of Student Affairs - Joyce Howes, Assistant Dean.................................775-3180
Pre-Health Advising - Jacqueline Neal, Director....................... 775-3180

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.......................... Michael Leffak 775-3041
Biological Sciences......................................................... David L. Goldstein 775-2655
Chemistry................................................................. David Grossie 775-2855
Earth and Environmental Sciences.......................... David Dominic 775-2201
Mathematics and Statistics........................................... Weifu Fang 775-2785
Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology............. Tim Cope 775-3067
Physics................................................................. Doug Petkie 775-2954
Psychology............................................................. Debra Steele-Johnson 775-3527
Statistical Consulting Center................................. Harry Khamis 775-4205