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From the President, 2015-05

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Dr. Bardo's May 2015 Newsletter

Congratulations to our students on an amazing year, and thank you to the faculty and staff who have guided and supported them. From research projects, to theater productions and awards, we all take pride in student success.

Here's a sampling of some of the recent accomplishments of our students:

Research work

Many students have taken part in research and other innovative studies, including Jennifer Francois, a Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate student who is studying the ways in which infants' eyes track their mothers' faces. Her findings could help with future work related to childhood language development.



St. Aubin

In the College of Engineering, senior Richard St. Aubin and his team at the Computer Architecture and Parallel Programming Laboratory devised a system that involves solar panels on the hood, roof and trunk of a car to absorb electrical energy from the sun. This energy is then used to subsidize the car's electrical needs to save money on gasoline.

Another student working on automotive technology is graduate industrial engineering student Utkarsh Ranjan, who along with his teammates is among 20 university teams from around the world selected for the second round of the Valeo Innovation Challenge. The competition invites students to design a product or system that will create smarter, more intuitive cars by 2030.

This past February, five undergraduate and 10 graduate students represented WSU at the state capitol by presenting a range of research studies, covering topics from advances in health care to drilling efficiency. They shared their findings with legislators, the Kansas Board of Regents, industry representatives and other attendees.

And just this month, the first winners of the Shocker New Venture Competition were announced. The competition is an opportunity for Kansas college students to take key steps in developing and launching a successful business venture. All winning teams were from Wichita State.

Awards and accolades

I would like to congratulate our students who won awards this year, including Ken Ward, an Elliott School graduate teaching assistant who won the Master's Category of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools. This is the first time the award has been given to a WSU nominee.



Ken Ward

And the excellent staff of The Sunflower student newspaper took home quite the haul in April at the Kansas Collegiate Media conference. The staff earned 36 awards, including a gold medal in the overall category for four-year college newspapers. Junior Shelby Reynolds took home the coveted Journalist of the Year award in the four-year newspaper division, as well.

Several students took part earlier this year in the prestigious Clinton Global Initiative University in Florida, a meeting of more than 1,000 students representing 300 schools and 75 countries. The event was hosted by President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton. Social work graduate student Sein Lengeju, Barton Scholar Kiah Duggins, and community psychology graduate students Nicole Freund, Jessica Drum and Refika Sarionder were invited to participate and discuss their commitments to action for measurable plans to address challenges facing campuses and communities worldwide.

Entertainment and events

Shocker students did a great job entertaining us this year. Some highlights included the popular production of "Into the Woods," by the School of Performing Arts Musical Theatre Program, and "Brave New World," by the School of Performing Arts Dance Program.

Last month, students in the Modern and Classical Languages and Literature Department's Japanese program went out of their way highlight some of the diversity we have on campus. They hosted the WSU Japan Festival – complete with booths, games and performances – and gave us a peek at some of our university's outstanding culture.

I've also been impressed with the Student Activities Council's "SAC Nights," which is giving students a greater opportunity to take part in fun after-hours events. The Glow Paint Party and Bubble Soccer, for example, were quite a hit!



School of Performing Arts' production of "Into the Woods."

And a job well done to the Sports Public Relations class, which succeeded this spring in its efforts to help bring ESPN's College GameDay to Wichita State for the Shocker men's

basketball game against Northern Iowa. I think we can all agree that day was a rousing success!

Thank you to our students, faculty and staff for a great year. I'm proud of each one.

What I'm Reading



I'm always amazed and extremely proud at the high level of research that is conducted on campus by our students.

Wichita State University graduate student Jennifer Francois is conducting research that studies the ways in which infants' eyes track their mothers' faces -- a small detail that can have a big impact on a child's foundation for future language development.

Francois, a doctoral candidate in Wichita State's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, used eye-tracking technology to monitor and record eye-gaze behaviors of 3- to 4-month-old infants.

The study is a collaborative effort between the WSU's Applied Psychology Research Institute – which owns the eye-tracking equipment – Barbara Chaparro, coordinator of the Human Factors program, and Francois' advisor, Kathy Coufal, both of whom lent their expertise in technology and language development to Francois.

[Read the full story at WSU News](#)

More than a half century of the Hugo Wall School

In the mid-1940s, Wichita University Professor Hugo Wall began envisioning an academic unit that would link the University and the community. The forerunner of the entity that bears his name, the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs, was established in May 1958.

Stable funding for Wall's vision emerged in 1965 shortly after the transition of the University of Wichita into Wichita State University. City of Wichita voters approved the adoption of a citywide mill levy dedicated to the new state university, and the University allocated a portion of the mill levy to the fledgling Center for Urban Studies (now Public Policy and Management Center) for research and service focused primarily on the city.

Fifty-seven years later, the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs has expanded its outreach efforts and now boasts three centers — the Public Policy and Management Center, the Environmental Finance Center and the Kansas Public Finance Center — that are focused on engaging communities in service of the public. The teaching, research and activities of the school are

lockstep with the university's mission to be an essential educational, cultural and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good.

Here's to many more decades of service.

About this Newsletter

OUR MISSION

The mission of Wichita State University is to be an essential educational, cultural and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good. The President's Message is a monthly newsletter that highlights the university's progress toward fulfilling that mission.

CONTACT US

We would like to hear from you. Please send your comments and suggestions to lou.heldman@wichita.edu

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