GRADUATE SCHOOL

Two new graduate awards - the Graduate School Master’s Scholarship and the Graduate School Ph.D. Grant - are being funded from WSU’s School as Lender program funds. The Master’s Scholarship pays up to six credits of tuition each term and will be awarded beginning this summer. The Ph.D. Grant provides up to a $4,000 grant to WSU Ph.D. students who are Graduate Assistants. It will be awarded beginning in the fall. Both awards require demonstration of financial need and are available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

STUDENT SERVICES

In partnership with the Dean of Students Office and the Detroit Orientation Institute, Alexis Dangelo, junior, received a student grant from the Jimmy and Roslyn Carter Partnership Foundation. The grant is to develop a program introducing WSU student organization leaders to volunteer opportunities in the city of Detroit. WSU was one of only three universities in Michigan which received a grant.

HONORS PROGRAM

Over 2000 people - students and parents - attended the Scholars Days held on January 27, February 1, 10 and 11. Helping with the interviews were faculty, alumni, staff, and friends (including Governors Eugene Driker, Annetta Miller, and Jackie Washington). Honors students volunteered as guides to accompany the high school students to their interviews and touring campus. All students participating receive, at a minimum a $1500 scholarship for four years, many students are considered for privately funded scholarships, and a few students are eligible for a four-year full tuition Presidential Scholarship.
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

“The Chronicle of Higher Education” reported that the College of Nursing’s doctoral program has been ranked at #5 using the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, partly financed by the State University of New York at Stony Brook and produced by Academic Analytics, a for-profit company, rates faculty members’ scholarly output at nearly 7300 doctoral programs around the country. It examines the number of book and journal articles published by each program’s faculty, as well as journal citations, awards, honors, and grants received.

The College of Engineering has been provided with over $500,000 in the latest electronics design software from Alrtium Limited of Australia. This software will greatly enhance the ability of students and researchers to design advanced electronic devices and components, including those developed by Robert Erlandson, director of the college’s Enabling Technologies Lab. These devices have enhanced the lives of special needs workers and students by developing workplace devices and solutions.

STUDENT EVENTS

In January, the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts hosted the first of a series of debates for the Detroit Public Schools (DPS) the final week of January, 2007. Eight varsity and 16 novice teams from six Detroit High Schools participated in two debates. The DPS debates are part of the National Association of Urban Debate Leagues, an organization dedicated to providing debate opportunities for inner-city schools. Four future debates in this series will be hosted by WSU.

STUDENTS

The College of Engineering inducted more than 50 December graduates, both undergraduate and graduate students, into the professional Orders of the Engineer and Engineering Technology at a special ceremony at Community Arts Auditorium.

Gabe Murillo and Andy Timmons, members of the WSU Debate Team, department of communication, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, have been invited to the prestigious Dartmouth College tournament, where only the nation’s top seven teams compete. WSU is currently ranked third in the nation out of 116 universities and colleges. In-state rivals Michigan State, U of M, and U of M Dearborn are ranked 33rd, 60th, and 75th respectively.
College of Engineering students, Anita Singh and her team (Professor John Cavanaugh adviser) took Best Paper Award and $1500 for their work, “A New Model of Traumatic Axonal Injury to Determine the Effects of Strain and Displacement Rates” and Chirag Shah (Professor King Hay Kang, adviser) took Third Place honors and $500 for the paper, “Dynamic Biaxial Tissue Properties of the Human Cadaver Aorta” at the International Stapp Car Crash Conference held in Dearborn. The conference is the premier forum for presentation of auto safety research.

Carol Izant, BFA painting student, department of Art and Art History, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, received the “Spirit of Detroit Award” from the City of Detroit, for over 20 years of activism and arts advocacy.

Natasha Robinson, Journalism Institute for Minorities student, department of communication, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, was one of 10 students state-wide to win $1,000 scholarships from the Michigan Press Association.

Sabyasachee Misra, PhD student, College of Engineering, working with Snehamay Khasnabas, professor of civil engineering, has been awarded a $2000 scholarship from the Michigan Institute of Transportation Engineers for the year 2006. The award is given annually to four students from Michigan universities on a competitive basis based on the student’s academic performance, leadership, professional activities and a brief essay written by the students on transportation.

FACULTY

Jayanth Panyam, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, received a Ralph Wilson Medical Research Foundation award of $200,000 for a study entitled, “Nanoparticles for Targeted Drug Delivery to Eliminate Chlamydial Infection.” Co-investigators are Drs. Judith Whittum-Hudson and Alan Hudson.

Marion Jackson, professor, art and art history, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, directed the application for the 2007 Joyce Foundation grant. The Joyce Foundation of Chicago, which helps cultural institutions commission works by minority artists, has awarded $50,000 grants to WSU and the Detroit Institute of Arts. The WSU award will fund a new sculpture by Heidelberg Project artist Tyree Guyton as well as a visual arts program, which will be exhibited at the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, being developed to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Heidelberg Project.
Gregory Auner, professor, director of the College of Engineering’s Smart Sensor (SSIM) and Integrated Microsystems (SSI M) lab, has been selected as an “Everyday Hero” by the RARE (Recognizing Achievement Rewarding Excellence) Foundation. The Foundation engages youth through the process of discussion, discovery and writing about the everyday heroes in their communities. The citation said, “Through Dr. Auner’s leadership, the odds for success are getting better everyday through a unique consortium involving world-class partners, including Karmanos Cancer Institute, and Children’s Hospital.” “SSIM projects are about trying to find solutions to critical, real-world problems such as delicate fetal and infant surgeries, early diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as Parkinson’s, auditory and visual implants to restore failing eyesight and hearing loss in people with hearing and visual impairments.”

Xiaoyan Han, professor, electrical and computer engineering, College of Engineering, developed a thermal wave imaging technology that has been produced by the Boeing Company. This device is used in inspections to detect tiny fissures in aging aircraft skin.