

Submitted by: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Informational Report

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School hosted an open house for prospective students on March 12, 2009. More than 500 people attended to learn more about Wayne State graduate programs and speak with representatives from admissions, schools and colleges, housing, advising and financial aid.

STUDENT SERVICES

Throughout the month of February, Academic Pathways for Excellence (APEX) staff met with Wayne County Community College District Student Services staff to discuss joint implementation of student success strategies for the WSU-WCCCD Pathways Program. The Pathways Program, projected to begin Fall 2009, will provide pre-transfer and academic support services for WCCCD students who are planning to transfer to Wayne State University.

The University Advising Center presented a MCAT preparation workshop to members of the American Medical Student Association. Approximately 40 pre-medicine students attended.

DEAN OF STUDENTS

More than 40 students participated in the university's Alternative Spring Break Detroit program. The program is a week-long intensive service experience, which allows students to stay in the city for a week of volunteering at local non-profit organizations. The students stay overnight in the city, get issue education and spend time with residents and the employees of the non-profit agencies while volunteering. This year, students performed a number of service activities, including prepping the land for a garden near the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, coloring with sick kids at Children's Hospital, cleaning and boarding up abandoned buildings and working with a program that helps paroled prisoners reintegrate into society.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences hosted a discussion, "African-American Participation in Contemporary U.S. Politics" which successfully initiated the College's exceptional state-of-the-art, digital video conferencing facility. Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick participated in

the event. More than 70 students from Vladivostok State University in Russia were able to participate in the conference through video.

Wayne State's College of Nursing has been awarded nearly \$2 million in grants related to initiatives aimed at alleviating the state's nursing shortage. In 2007, Governor Jennifer Granholm unveiled the creation of a Michigan Nursing Corps to specifically confront the state's critical shortage of nurses. This is the second consecutive year the College of Nursing has been awarded grants through the Nursing Corps plan.

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts recently established a partnership with award winning producer Larry Meistrich of NEHST Studios and Michigan Production Alliance to offer introductory movie industry boot camps. The boot camp was created to give participants an insider's guide to success in the film industry and also to boost interest for Wayne State's new workforce development strategy. Michigan film unions also are working with Wayne State to establish accredited film crew training programs.

STUDENTS

Three Wayne State students from the Masters in Business Administration program competed in the annual ACG Detroit Cup competition sponsored by the Association for Corporate Growth. Teams in the competition play the role of investment bankers who are to advise hypothetical clients who "inherited" \$50 million. The team of **Ashley Sullivan**, **Brad McCloy** and **Paula Ficyk** won \$1,000 in scholarship money for placing second in the competition.

Three McNair Scholars presented their undergraduate research projects at the National Research Symposium held at Oklahoma State University, February 18-20, 2009. Two psychology majors (**Antoinette London** and **Airika Crawford**) and one social work major (**Tanya Bishop**) presented their original work at the conference.

FACULTY

Paul A. Schiavi, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has been recognized by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) for his efforts to improve vaccination rates in the local community. The award will be presented during APhA's Annual Meeting, April 3-6, in San Antonio, TX.

Two Wayne State researchers were recognized by Fermilab for their contributions to research on the Higgs particle. **Robert Harr**, associate professor of physics, and **Shalhout Shalhout**, a physics doctoral student, were major contributors to research that demonstrates the territory where the Higgs particle

may be found continues to shrink. The Higgs particle is a keystone in the theoretical framework known as the Standard Model of particles and their interactions. According to the Standard Model, the Higgs boson -- sometimes jocularly called the "God particle" -- explains why some elementary particles have mass and others do not.