ACADEMIC AFFAIRS


SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Wayne State University College of Engineering students will be the only team from Michigan participating in the “EcoCAR 2: Plugging in to the Future” competition. The event — a three-year marathon exploring electric drive vehicle technology — builds upon a 23-year history of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Vehicle Technology Competitions, AVTC, that utilize professional partnerships to give students valuable real-world experience in hybrid engineering. The Department of Energy, along with General Motors Corp., asked universities to apply to participate in the North American competition. While the sponsors targeted 400 universities for proposals, only 15 were chosen.

The purpose behind artistic creation gets the once-over in a show about African art that focuses on very different human impulses. “When Art Works: African Utilitarian Objects from the Faxon Collection” at Wayne State’s Elaine L. Jacob Gallery considers instruments of everyday life in an exhibit up through Feb. 8. Nii O. Quarcoopome, who heads the Department of Africa, Oceania and Indigenous Americas at the Detroit Institute of Arts, curated the show at the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery. Quarcoopome notes in the catalog that accompanies the show that sub-Saharan art is almost all functional, blurring the distinction between "art" and "non-art."

Wayne State University’s Urbanology: Art as Activism course, offered through the Department of Art and Art History, was highlighted in an article in the Michigan Citizen. Students, along with associate professor Marilyn Zimmerman, recently visited with activist Grace Lee Boggs at the Boggs Center. The course uses Boggs’ book “The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the 21st Century.” Student Todd Davis said, “The Art as Activism class at Wayne State and reading Grace’s book have changed my life. I’m inspired to push hard to find the next paradigm in how we look at urban art as a catalyst for change.”
FACULTY

Distinguished Professor of Law, Robert Sedler, was presented with the John W. Reed Michigan Lawyer Legacy Award. This award, created in 2011 and named for former Wayne Law Dean John W. Reed, is presented to a professor from a Michigan law school whose influence on Michigan lawyers has elevated the quality of legal practice in the state.

Stephanie Brock and Arthur Suits, professors of chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Wayne State University, have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Election as an AAAS Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

STUDENTS

Wayne State University School of Medicine students are participating in Street Medicine Detroit, a program that takes doctors-to-be out of the clinic and into the city treating homeless people in the shelters, parks and underpasses where they often live. The students monitor vitals, provide checkups and make sure people with chronic illnesses are getting the proper medication. The new venture is supported by about 100 Wayne State medical students and the Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO). The group was founded in the summer by medical student Jonathan Wong, and the team deals with three big health issues: physical health, severe mental illness, and substance abuse.

Farhana Dewan, a computer science doctoral student working with Professor Nathan Fisher, received the Best Student Paper Award at the 33rd Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Real-Time Systems Symposium (RTSS) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for a paper titled "Efficient Admission Control for Enforcing Arbitrary Real-Time Demand-Curve Interfaces." RTSS is the flagship conference for the IEEE Technical Committee on Real-Time Systems. In addition, Farhana also received a 2012-2013 Olbrot Travel Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Research for traveling to RTSS.

Nine student pharmacists traveled for a week-long medical mission to Nicaragua and Haiti. The students are members of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (EACPHS) chapter of the World Health Student Organization (WHSO). For the second consecutive year, they are joining the WHSO-School of Medicine chapter to set up free health clinics and to take the lead for the distribution of medications, providing underserved populations with medication counseling and general health education. The WHSO-EACPHS board members have been working since summer collecting medications and fundraising in preparation for the upcoming trips. Under faculty advisor Helen
**Berlie**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, the students on the Nicaragua trip are **Priyasha Patel, Corey Tschannen** and **Nicole Ploszewski**, second-year student pharmacists; and **Mostafa Aboutaleb**, first-year student pharmacist. On the Haiti trip are **Sabrina Grandi** (WHSO-EACPHS president), **Ashley Powell, Jordan Masse, Josephine Cheng**, all third-year student pharmacists; and **Jessica Chyz**, second-year pharmacy student.

On Nov. 24, at Cass and Peterboro, Detroit’s Chinatown, 100 Flying Paper Lanterns were launched into the sky. The event was organized by **Bianca Ibarlueca**, a Wayne State University junior, for a class led by visiting artist Fritz Haeg and sculpture professor Eric Troffkin. Ibarlueca was inspired by living on Peterboro. Current figures estimate that around 20 percent of Detroit’s lighting infrastructure does not work, and in some areas that number may be as high as 50 percent. After the lighting bills died in the State Senate this fall, Ibarlueca decided to combine art with activism, and create a project that would amplify the voice of Detroiters as they call on elected officials to resolving the lighting issue.