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Informational Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

One of the world's most comprehensive rankings of academic quality has classified Wayne State University as 67th in the United States and 225th worldwide. The University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) 2015-16 World University Rankings, compiled by Middle East Technical University, gathered data on 2,500 higher education institutions with the highest number of publications. The universities were then ranked by academic performance. The overall score of each school is based upon six performance indicators derived from statistical analysis of publications. The indicators include article, citation, total document, article impact total, citation impact total and international collaboration. Wayne State is listed in the ranking's A+ category, the second highest.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The Wayne State University School of Social Work hosted a ribbon cutting and open house on Thursday, April 21, to celebrate its new home at 5447 Woodward Avenue. The school moved to the new location in January 2016 from The Thompson Home, the building at Cass and Hancock it had occupied since 1991. The celebration featured brief remarks by School of Social Work Dean Cheryl Waites and WSU President M. Roy Wilson, as well as by students, faculty and donors. The school offered tours of its new building, which recently underwent the first of a two-phase renovation. Guests heard from faculty and students about ongoing social work research, community projects and educational initiatives while viewing phase two renderings on display throughout the building.

The special education program in the Wayne State University College of Education's Division of Teacher Education hosted an April symposium exploring how students' sense of school belonging increases socioemotional well-being and preparedness for academic growth. Specifically, the symposium examined the notion in the context of urban schools. A panel of researchers addressed the questions of who belongs in school, how belonging can be created for diverse students and why belonging can address educational inequity. Both international scholars and Wayne State faculty participated.

FACULTY

Eating bugs may have once been reserved for gross-out competition TV shows such as *Fear Factor*; however, there's been an increased interest in edible insects in Western countries where this food resource has been largely overlooked. As a burgeoning area of research and commerce, there have been a number of conferences held across Europe and in Canada dedicated to edible insects. Wayne State University will be the first to host such a conference in the United States, as Eating Insects Detroit: Exploring the Culture of Insects as Food and Feed makes its way to WSU's Community Arts Auditorium and the surrounding main campus area May 26-28th. The first conference in North America dedicated to edible insects was held in Montreal in August 2014. Julie Lesnik, assistant professor in

Wayne State's Department of Anthropology, attended the Montreal conference, and knew the entrepreneurial spirit of Detroit was the perfect atmosphere for the first U.S. conference of this kind.

The reach and impact of Wayne State Distinguished Professor George Galster's work is remarkable. His creative and methodologically sophisticated scholarship has challenged conventional thinking and helped shape the field of urban affairs, most notably in the areas of: racial and economic segregation, neighborhood effects on individual outcomes, and the impact of subsidized housing and community development investments on surrounding property values. The Urban Affairs Association (UAA), the international professional association for urban scholars, researchers and public service professionals, convened its 46th Annual Conference in San Diego, California in March to recognize Galster's outstanding contributions to the field of urban affairs. He was presented the second ever Contribution to the Field of Urban Affairs Award, which is given to individuals whose body of work has contributed to defining the field.

STUDENTS

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a five-year grant of more than \$3.6 million that will continue to support the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) program at Wayne State University. The WSU-IMSD program, established in 1978 with NIH support as the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program, was developed and has been led by Joseph Dunbar, Ph.D., associate vice president for research at Wayne State, along with Rasheeda Zafar, Ph.D., the program's coordinator. WSU-IMSD's goals are to facilitate the entry, persistence and success of significant numbers of underrepresented minority students into science majors, ultimately guiding them to pursue careers in academics and scientific research. According to Dunbar, many undergraduate students that are exceptionally talented and high-achieving, particularly students from disadvantaged backgrounds, first-generation college students, and/or underrepresented minority students, lack the academic tools, persistence, confidence and developmental mentoring necessary to persist effectively in a college environment.

In August 2014, metro Detroit was drenched with two days of steady rainfall, resulting in flooded streets, freeways and homes. Owen Pierce, a Wayne State undergraduate and McNair Scholar, wondered how this could happen in a modern city with a drainage system. Pierce's research found the flooding was primarily due to the abundance of impervious surfaces in the city. His hypothesis was that replacing some concrete with grass could significantly reduce the chances of flooding. To test his theory, Pierce analyzed the impact of replacing a half-mile stretch of pavement in the center lane of Grand River Avenue with grass. Pierce determined that 1,189,296 gallons of storm water could be saved in a day along that half-mile stretch with a surface that soaked up rain. Pierce also looked at major thoroughfares such as Gratiot, Michigan, Jefferson, Van Dyke Avenue and Woodward avenues. On average, these roads each have about six miles open for installing grass medians in their center lanes. If that were done, Pierce calculates over 100 million gallons of storm water could be saved per day from entering the sewer system. That's approximately 6 percent of the water allowed through Detroit's primary water treatment plant.