

Submitted by: Margaret E. Winters, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

## Informational Report

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Marquita Chamblee has been appointed Wayne State University's first associate provost for diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer. Chamblee, whose appointment is effective Feb. 2, 2015, has spent more than 30 years in higher education, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. She joins Wayne State from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where she has served as director of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Multicultural Education since 2012. "We are extremely pleased that Dr. Chamblee will be joining us in this highly visible and influential new role," said Margaret E. Winters, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Wayne State University has been selected to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The classification is the result of the University's commitment and dedication to Midtown Detroit over the last six years. It marks the second time Wayne State has earned the distinction since the classification was established in 2006. As part of the first group of universities to receive the classification in 2008, Wayne State is now one of 157 institutions to earn Community Engagement reclassification. In total, 361 campuses hold the distinction.

### **SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

A Wayne State University interdisciplinary research team in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences made a surprising discovery: older, more mature motorists, who typically are better drivers in many circumstances, are much worse than their younger counterparts when texting while driving. Published in the January 2015 issue of *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, the study "The Effects of Texting on Driving Performance in a Driving Simulator: The Influence of Driver Age" explores the relationship between texting, driving performance and age.

Laurie Lauzon Clabo was appointed dean of the Wayne State University College of Nursing in December 2014. Clabo, whose appointment is effective April 1, 2015, is a nationally recognized leader in nursing education. She joins Wayne State from the MGH Institute of Health Professions, a health professions graduate school in Boston where she has served as dean of the School of Nursing since 2010. "Clabo brings wide knowledge and experience both in the many facets of nursing education and in the wider health sciences arena, according to Margaret E. Winters, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

### **FACULTY**

Ancient Greek and Roman civilizations always fascinated Jennifer Sheridan Moss, associate professor in Wayne State's Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures. "One of the things I love about the Classics is how it translates

into current life and society.” Moss was recently awarded the Excellence in the Teaching of Classics at the College Level award from the Society for Classical Studies (SCS) and honored at the SCS’ annual meeting in New Orleans. Moss arrived at WSU 20 years ago, primarily because she wanted to have a career at a public university that helped underserved populations. Although the award is a reflection on her collegiate teaching career, she said it’s her pupils who make her a better professor. “I couldn’t be me without Wayne State students,” Moss said. “They are the most amazing people in the world. I’m in awe of the way they function. They beat all the odds.”

More than 40 percent of calls concerning energy drinks to U.S. poison control centers involve children younger than 6, with some suffering serious cardiac and neurological symptoms, according to research that was presented at the 2014 American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions. This disproportionate representation of children is concerning given the number of reports of serious cardiac and neurological symptoms, said Steven Lipshultz, M.D., the study’s senior author and professor and chair of pediatrics at Wayne State University and pediatrician-in-chief at Children’s Hospital of Michigan. “Energy drinks have no place in pediatric diets,” Dr. Lipshultz said, “And anyone with underlying cardiac, neurologic or other significant medical conditions should check with their health care provider to make sure it’s safe to consume energy drinks.”

A Wayne State expert on intimate partner violence was recognized for her contributions to research and mentoring at a national gathering of social work scholars .Arlene Weisz, professor in the School of Social Work participated in the January 15, 2015 Society for Social Work and Research’s (SSWR) “Meet the Scientist” . SSWR selected Weisz for her “outstanding contributions to social work research and...ability to provide informal guidance to early career scholars and doctoral students.” A 20-year member of the university’s social work faculty, Weisz’ research on adult intimate partner violence has focused primarily on legal interventions and risk assessment. She has also published extensively on teen dating violence and sexual assault prevention programmin.

## **STUDENTS**

Unsafe and scarce drinking water is a reality for millions of people around the world, but a group of Wayne State students are trying to change that. Abess Makki started the National Student Water Association after hearing his West African relatives describe how difficult it is to obtain clear water. Using social media, Abess' group has grown beyond just Wayne State University to students ambassadors at Michigan State, University, University of Michigan, Harvard College and Yale University. The group is raising money and awareness, but the ultimate goal is to identify innovative solutions.