

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

Informational Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Wayne State is part of a new statewide center to enhance the understanding and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The National Institutes of Health has awarded an estimated \$9 million over five years for the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Core Center (ADCC) to a team of researchers and clinicians from the University Research Corridor, comprised of Wayne State University, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Over 5 million Americans 65 and older have Alzheimer's disease, and another several million have other forms of dementia. The ADCC will support a wide range of studies on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias while also educating scientists, health care professionals and the public on the causes and treatment of dementias.

Wayne State University is among 28 colleges and universities nationwide slated to receive a total of \$1.7 million in grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to transform the culture of graduate education. The grants are designed to broaden the preparation of Ph.D. students beyond a career in academia. In Detroit, this means making the bridge from humanities scholarship to the challenges facing the community—from public education and the water supply to inequality and urban development. “This grant will allow Wayne State to continue its role as an innovator in graduate education,” says project director and Department of History chair Elizabeth Faue. “We provide our graduate students with skills to pursue diverse careers not only in higher education, but also in the public and non-profit sectors and in the private economy.”

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

With almost 1200 graduate students enrolled this fall, the Mike Ilitch School of Business graduate enrollment is the largest it has been since fall 2007. The increased numbers are a huge turnaround from just two years ago, when there were only 606 graduate students in fall 2014, representing a 93.2% increase in two years. The school's enrollment increase also bucks national trends. Across the U.S., MBA program enrollments are down 11% since 2009, according to a survey by accrediting group AACSB International. Wayne State officials credit three factors for the increase. Flexible class scheduling to enable course completion in as little as four weeks, ample scholarship opportunities and the waiver of the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT). The test is waived for applicants with at least three years of relevant professional experience who show increased responsibility over that period.

FACULTY

Yinlun Huang, professor of chemical engineering and materials science in the Wayne State College of Engineering, has been selected to receive the 2016 Sustainable Engineering Forum (SEF) Education Award from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). This award annually recognizes an educator who has made outstanding contributions to sustainability education in the classroom or engineering community.

Wayne State's Area Head of Journalism Faculty Jack Lessenberry won first place in the political column category at the annual Association of Alternative Newsmedia (AAN) Awards this summer. This is the third time Lessenberry has won the award for his column, Politics & Prejudices, a Detroit Metro Times feature since 1993. AAN Award finalists were selected from a pool of 821 entries from 70 alternative publications based in the U.S. and Canada. Lessenberry says he is humbled by his most recent win. "This is the third time my column has been recognized as the best in the nation by the AAN and that is sort of amazing, considering all the great publications and journalists out there," he said.

STUDENTS

Wayne State received a \$750,000 gift from alumna Leda McIntyre Hall ('84 Ph.D.) to create the Leda McIntyre Hall Endowed Ph.D. Fellowship in Political Science. Established as an endowed fund, the fellowship will provide tuition support for one Ph.D. student each year in perpetuity. Preference will be given to those students studying public administration, American government or urban politics. "Dr. McIntyre Hall's gift emphasizes the importance of encouraging the advanced study of political science," said College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Wayne M. Raskind. "We are extremely grateful that she is creating this opportunity at Wayne State for students with the curiosity and commitment to examine important issues."

The McGregor Fund has awarded Wayne State \$200,000 to develop a comprehensive plan for students who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, as well as those experiencing difficulty in meeting basic non-academic needs. "Without safe and reliable housing, or other basic needs being met, students cannot be successful in college," said Kate Levin Markel, president of the McGregor Fund. "We are happy to support this initiative at Wayne State as it works to ensure that poverty and hardship do not stand in the way of earning a four-year degree." The McGregor Fund grant will allow Wayne State to investigate and respond to student homelessness and related needs such as health care, financial planning, and food insecurity on campus.