

Informational Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Wayne State University is offering students an innovative way to stay on track as they work toward graduation — from their phones. The new Guide mobile app was introduced to incoming Warriors during orientation on May 13, making Wayne State the first university in Michigan to offer this exciting, student-centered technology. “College is very different from high school, and sometimes incoming students become overwhelmed,” said Monica Brockmeyer, Associate Provost for Academic Success, “We want to ease that transition and make them feel welcome. Using Guide will allow us to communicate and connect with students in a platform that’s really comfortable for them.” Guide, which was brought to campus as a student success initiative led by the Office of the Provost, will provide students with ongoing, responsive guidance via push notifications and alerts. The app will help empower students to stay on track and connect with campus resources as they register for classes, meet with advisors, navigate financial aid and more. Guide will also provide alerts if a student is struggling in a class or misses an important deadline. “Guide will take a proactive approach in demystifying a lot of the basics associated with starting college and it will help us recognize and address potential roadblocks a student might face early on,” Brockmeyer said. “This allows students to spend more time discussing open-ended things like their goals, career plans, and overall campus experience with our talented advising staff.” The app will also provide reminders about key WSU deadlines, tips and tutorials for college success, information about campus events and engagement opportunities, and more. While Guide will be available first to incoming freshmen, plans are in place to expand its reach with content designed specifically for returning students, transfer students, international students and veterans.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Nearly 800 Detroit schoolchildren rolled out yoga mats on May 10, in the Wayne State University Matthaei Physical Education Center to participate in a worldwide event called All Children Exercising Simultaneously (ACES) Day, which promotes the prevention of childhood obesity and the importance of regular exercise. Wayne State’s Center for Health and Community Impact in the College of Education partnered with the Michigan Fitness Foundation and Danialle Karmanos’ Work It Out to co-host the event. “The day is a celebration of health, wellness and obesity prevention,” said Nate McCaughtry, assistant dean for the Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies and director of the Center for Health and Community Impact. “Our goal is to teach children to exercise in meaningful ways so that they can live healthy, impactful lives.” Schools participating in the second annual event included: Highland Park Renaissance Academy, Coleman Young Elementary, Detroit Christ the King Catholic School, Starr Academy, Gesu Catholic School,

Carver STEM Academy, Charles Wright Elementary and Detroit Premier Academy. All of the schools participate in ongoing yoga and mindfulness training throughout the school year thanks to funding by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. Danialle Karmanos' Work It Out leads those activities and the Center for Health and Community Impact conducts research and provides evaluation of the program. It is one of 15 ongoing community-engaged research projects for the center.

FACULTY

Cheryl Waites, dean and professor at the Wayne State University School of Social Work, has been named a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Waites was awarded GSA fellowship – the highest class of membership – through the Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section in acknowledgement of her outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology. GSA is the world's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging.

STUDENTS

Wayne State University School of Medicine student Alex Green has been awarded a Boren Fellowship from the National Security Education Program to travel to Jordan for a 10-month Arabic language and related research project concerning health care determinants of antimicrobial resistance among Syrian refugees. Green also was named a 2017 Medical Scholar by the Infectious Disease Society of America. The award will be used to support a domestic research project investigating the microbial populations that are unique to Syrian refugees in metropolitan Detroit and the unique antimicrobial resistance those microbes exhibit. The Boren Fellowship provides up to \$24,000 in support for fully-funded opportunities for United States graduate students to study less-commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests. Green, who completed his second year of medical school, will return to the School of Medicine as a third-year student in 2018. In exchange for funding, Boren Fellows commit to working in the federal government for at least one year following graduation.