

Submitted by: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs

## Informational Report

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

A special Detroit Orientation Institute (DOI) was held in partnership with the Canadian Consulate General and for the Canada School of Public Service, Advanced Leadership Program. The Canadian Consulate contacted the DOI to present a three-day program for high-level Canadian leaders. This is part of year long program for 25 Canadian leaders to learn about leadership development and issues in countries across the globe. The group was divided into three sections and had eight leaders and two faculty from the Canada School of Public Service.

*Roses and Revolutions: The Selected Writings of Dudley Randall*, edited by Melba Joyce Boyd and published by Wayne State University Press, has been nominated for an NAACP Image Award for literature in the poetry category. Boyd is one of five finalists for this prestigious award.

Michael O. Smith, director of Wayne State University's Walter P. Reuther Library, has been appointed to a board designed to advise Gov. Jennifer Granholm on a proposed state museum in Lansing. The governor created the board to evaluate Michigan State University's proposal to transform the building now housing the Michigan Library and Historical Center into the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention. The new center would be a partnership between MSU, the state, the city of Lansing and other entities to deliver state library services and showcase state exhibits.

### **STUDENT SERVICES**

On February 22, 2010, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation welcomed a new Senior Director, Judy Benfield Tatum. Ms. Tatum comes to Wayne State with more than 30 years of experience in higher education administration. For the last 23 years, she has served in high level administrative positions at University of Michigan-Dearborn and Eastern Michigan University. She also has had professional experience at Purdue University and the Ohio Institute of Technology. Ms. Tatum has been active and served on committees for the College Board Midwest Region, Michigan ACT Council, Michigan Student Financial Aid Association, and has presented at state, regional, and national conferences on topics in financial aid and admissions.

On January 29, 2010, the Office of the Registrar went live with the chat feature of the University's new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.

Students reach chat help via the Registrar's web site (go to <http://reg.wayne.edu/> and click on "Need help?" to access). Students received the link to the chat in the communication sent out in January notifying them about the opening of Spring/Summer registration. The chat function allows WSU staff to send students web links, attach files, and conference other staff into live chats.

## **SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

Wayne State University's College of Engineering and Michigan Technological University were selected in the fall to offer the first course of the Michigan Academy for Green Mobility, a program designed to retrain working and displaced automotive engineers for electric and hybrid-electric vehicle applications. The College is focusing on the batteries that power the vehicles.

The Irvin D. Reid Honors College has partnered with the New Central High School in Detroit to provide WSU volunteers for mentoring high school students. Approximately 30 WSU students will be trained using the College Positive Volunteer curriculum. After being certified, students will meet with Central High school students weekly engaging in activities designed to motivate high school students toward college preparation. The high school students will visit WSU's campus for a tour. For the University, the IDR Honors College, and WSU students, an expected result is a strengthened partnership with a specific high school and its students that are historically less likely to attend and succeed in college.

In the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts, the Journalism Institute for Media Diversity, along with the Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, is hosting a Journalism That Matters national conference. The conference, titled Create or Die...Innovate, Incubate, Initiate, will be held June 3 - 6. Approximately 100 journalists, technology experts and venture capitalists will discuss new methods of gathering and disseminating news - with the possibility of creating new companies, for the benefit and education of the public, especially people of color.

## **STUDENTS**

Wayne State University senior **Antal Zambo** was awarded the Writers Guild of America, East Foundation's Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting. The competitive award includes a professional mentorship and a \$10,000 stipend to write an original screenplay.

**Elibe Elibe**, a graduate student in the College of Engineering, has been selected as the Michigan-Ohio University Transportation Center's Outstanding Student of the Year. Elibe will receive the distinguished honor, along with some dozen other

engineering students from regions around the country, at a ceremony in Washington D.C. hosted by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Elibe was nominated for the honor by his advisor, Professor Snehamay Khasnabis for his efforts on light-rail transit feasibility.

**Bobby C. Smith**, a Wayne State University student and founder of En Garde! Detroit, a local fencing school, credits the sport for being a conduit for positive change. Smith is bidding for the national fencing tournament, the North American Cup, to come to Detroit this year, which could generate between \$1 million and \$2 million for the city.

Students from the Journalism Institute for Media Diversity won several prestigious national summer internship placements. Dow Jones Newspaper Fund placed **Lauren Abdel-Razzaq** at the Indianapolis Star and **Isaac Elster** at the Pittsburg Post Gazette; Chipps Quinn placed **Ilissa Gilmore** at the Green Bay Press Gazette; and the Pulliam Fellowship placed **Carolyn Chin** at the Arizona Republic. **Kyla Smith** is spending winter term in Washington D.C., at George Washington University, as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus's select Communication Internship Program. **Ilissa Gilmore** traveled with the American Jewish Committee's Project Interchange to Israel and to the Investigative Reporters & Editors Student Press Law Center's "Campus Coverage Project" at Arizona State University.

A group of students from Wayne State University's School of Medicine are helping local elementary school kids stay active and fit. Every Monday after school nearly 45 WS students take 20 Rutherford Elementary students to do jumping jacks, sit-ups and other exercises aimed at ensuring they get enough physical activity.

## FACULTY

Two Wayne State University professors have been elected as fellows of the Society of Automotive Engineers. **John M. Cavanaugh**, professor of biomedical engineering, and **King-Hay Yang**, professor of biomedical and mechanical engineering, are among an elite group of SAE members who have achieved this distinction since its establishment in 1975. The "fellow" membership grade recognizes and honors long-term members who have made a significant impact on society's mobility technology through leadership, research and innovation. In his 25 years at Wayne State, Cavanaugh has extensively researched trauma biomechanics and spinal disorders. Yang's most recent research involves detailed modeling of the human body from head to toe in efforts to investigate mechanisms of injury related to motor vehicle collisions.

English professor **M.L. Liebler** has been awarded the prestigious 2010 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award. The award is bestowed by the literary magazine

Poets and Writers to honor authors who have given generously to other writers or to the broader literary community. Liebler has been an English professor at Wayne State University since 1980, and travels around the world performing music and poetry for the State Department. Liebler is director of Springfed Arts: Metro Detroit Writers and founding director of the National Writer's Voice Project. His poetry collection "Wide Awake in Someone Else's Dream" (Wayne State University Press, 2008) earned him the Paterson Poetry Prize for Literary Excellence and the 2009 American Indie Book Award.

**Jeffrey Loeb**, associate professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Neurology and associate director of the Center of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, was elected to the Epilepsy Foundation's Professional Advisory Board. Loeb was nominated for the four-year term by the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

**Cynthia Bir**, bioengineer in the College of Engineering, is the chief scientist on the current National Geographic television series "Fight Science," which explains the physics and biology of martial arts, weapons and police safety gear. The show mixes information with entertainment. Bir, an injury prevention expert, shares the screen with some of the world's best-known athletes and martial arts experts.

The Detroit Lions' Gosder Cherilus has helped seven Wayne State University doctors make an emergency visit to help Haiti's earthquake victims. The Haitian-born offensive tackle worked with the Troy-based Haiti Outreach Mission to fly the group to the Caribbean island nation. The doctors provided treatment at a small undamaged hospital outside Port-au-Prince and took 40 bins of medical supplies with them. The doctors, **Bonnie Stanton**, **Michael Callaghan** and **Melissa Barton**; and residents **Shannon Langston**, **Tariq Shihabuddin**, **Daniel Ridelman** and **Michael Gerstein**, handled everything from amputations to childbirth.