

Submitted by: Ronald T. Brown, Provost and Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Informational Report

STUDENT SERVICES

On August 30 and 31, more than 2,000 first-year students attended iStart-New Student Days. During this two day program, new students participated in academic success seminars, financial management classes, Warrior Service Day community service projects in the Detroit community, and social and teambuilding activities. Parents and family members joined their students for New Student Convocation and the Festifall picnic, the closing programs of iStart. The Office of Student Financial Aid sponsored a financial literacy seminar on how to manage funds while in college. They recruited staff from the Michigan Department of Treasury to make this presentation.

The Dean of Students Office (DOSO) hosted the summer's Parent Orientation program. 860 parents and family members attended this year, more than double the attendance of last year. Parents heard presentations from key university departments and programs, including Learning Communities, advising, housing, public safety, and financial aid. They also received a presentation by a faculty member on classroom success.

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) has developed a Book voucher project. This new process will get funds to students in the form of a book voucher three weeks before classes begin. OSFA tested this for the fall 2010 semester, with all freshman and undergrads in Social Work and Business. It has been well received with these students and has allowed over 300 students to buy books earlier than last year. This has been a joint effort with Office of Student Financial Aid, Student Accounts Receivable, C&IT and the Barnes & Noble bookstore.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Carol Miller, chair of civil and environmental engineering, is leading a team creating software to manage water system energy consumption and reducing pollutants. The team is attempting to create a more efficient control system that will reduce emissions. Miller and her team will test software at the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, one of the largest of its kind in the nation, and expects the system to improve efficiency of the pumping station by 10 to 15 percent.

The office of Community Engagement@Wayne, within the Irvin D. Reid Honors College, began the Get Schooled pilot program on July 18, 2010. The free program was designed to expose underrepresented student populations to higher education and career paths. Through the weeklong program, 50 students

from the University of Central Preparatory High School and Osborn College Preparatory Academy spent their time at Wayne State University. During the week of Get Schooled, students heard from an airline pilot, a nurse, and other professionals about their education and careers. Wayne State University's office of Career Services also worked with students to help them identify possible career choices. Students got a taste of college life by visiting a biology lab, completing a writing exercise with an English professor, learning about college study skills, being introduced to the ACT exam, performing a community service activity and spending a night in one of WSU's residence halls.

As public knowledge about healthy food alternatives in Detroit becomes more widespread, one Wayne State faculty member is giving students from Detroit Public Schools the chance to educate peers about nutrition through public service announcements (PSAs) they write, perform and produce. Mary Elizabeth Anderson, assistant professor of Theatre in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and director of WSU's Performance/Exchange program recently was funded by the Kresge Foundation for the Detroit Garden Classroom: A Healthy Kids Advocacy and Media Project. The project will launch a team of about 30 "student health advocates" from Spain Elementary/Middle School to create innovative, engaging PSAs about how to eat, live and thrive in Detroit. The PSAs will be distributed to DPS schools and made available on DPS and WSU websites during the 2010-11 school year.

STUDENTS

Nariman Zarzour, a PhD student in the Department of Sociology has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship to Jordan to study attitudes toward domestic violence among Jordanian women. Zarzour is one of more than 1500 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2010-2011 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

FACULTY

Roberto Romero, chief of the Perinatology Research Branch of the National Institutes of Health headquartered at Wayne State, was selected by *Crain's* as a 2010 Health Care Heroes winner in the category of Advancement in Health Care. Romero has been hailed for his work in linking genetics with preterm birth. He will be honored by *Crain's* at the Oct. 14 Health Care Leadership Summit.