

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

Informational Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Library of Michigan announced the list of the 2012 Michigan Notable Books. Each year the list features 20 books published in the previous calendar year that are about, or set in, Michigan or the Great Lakes region, or are written by a Michigan author. “*Ghost Writers: Us Haunting Them, Contemporary Michigan Literature*” edited by Keith Taylor and Laura Kasischke and published by Wayne State University Press was featured. This anthology is a collection of stories written by nonbelievers to purely fictional stories that provoke the imagination. The collection is set in a wide range of Michigan locations that bring a sense of history and place to the tales.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Ronald T. Brown, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs Ahmad Ezzeddine, and College of Engineering Dean Farshad Fotouhi recently traveled to Xidian University and South China University of Technology (SCUT) to sign a partnership agreement. The partnership, dubbed the 3+2 Program, will allow qualified engineering students from Xidian and SCUT to earn an undergraduate degree from their home university in three years followed by a master’s degree in two more from Wayne State. The trip was intended to boost the university’s international enrollment and create opportunities for future faculty collaboration. Thirteen students from Xidian University began their 3+2 studies at Wayne State this fall. Several more are expected soon from SCUT.

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) premiered its new video series, *Possibilities*, on Jan. 13, 2012, at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). The *Possibilities* video series showcases four individuals with disabilities who live, work and attend schools in Michigan. Each piece highlights the daily lives and accomplishments of people at different points in the lifespan. The primary theme of the series is to illustrate that all people, regardless of disability, can lead full, successful and inclusive lives in their communities.

The Division of Educational Outreach launched two new undergraduate degree programs in Nutrition and Food Science and Computer Science at the Macomb Center campus. Both programs are expected to continue expanding enrollment in Macomb County.

RETENTION

Dr. Monica Brockmeyer assumed responsibility for the retention initiative when she became Interim Associate Provost for Student Success in October 2011. Currently a high level steering community is clarifying the vision and mission of the various advising units and strengthening the communication and coordination between units in preparation for hiring and training of 15 new advisers. A faculty review of the General Education program has been conducted by the General Education Oversight committee and will involve faculty during Winter 2012. A Faculty Teaching Fellows Program focusing on general education is being piloted, and Faculty Education Travel Grants are being administered by the Office for Teaching and Learning. The search for a new Associate Provost and Director of the office for Teaching and Learning is underway; on-campus interviews will be conducted during February. Enhancements to the student support model in the Academic Pathways to Excellence (APEX) program are being developed and deployed.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The Detroit Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth, a global organization that focuses on growth for mergers and acquisitions business leaders, sponsors a regional student case competition each year. The program, which seeks to find the brightest minds for the future of M&A provides participants with opportunities to gain invaluable feedback from judges, expand their networks and compete for scholarships. Faculty, alumni and students from the School of Business Administration are working together to host the ACG Detroit Cup Finals in February, 2012. Participating schools include Wayne State University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Michigan-Flint, Walsh College, University of Detroit-Mercy and Michigan State University.

The Law School made the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2011 Best Law Schools List for the first time, coming in at 121.

The searches for the Deans of the School of Social Work and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are in full force and are going well. Screening interviews for both searches will occur in February and finalists will be brought to campus in March.

FACULTY

Patricia M. LoRusso, D.O., director of Phase I Clinical Trials and the Eisenberg Center for Experimental Therapeutics at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, and professor of Oncology at Wayne State University School of Medicine has been selected to co-lead a prestigious Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) - Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) Dream Team with Jeffrey M. Trent, Ph.D., of the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) in Phoenix, Arizona. As co-

leader, Dr. LoRusso is the first woman to serve in a Dream Team leadership role since SU2C began funding Dream Teams in 2009. The SU2C-MRA Melanoma Dream Team Translational Cancer Research Grant, a \$6 million, three-year grant, is intended to accelerate the application of new therapeutic agents to the clinic, thus advancing scientific research in the interests of both today's cancer patients and those who may develop cancer in the future.

The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS®) has awarded **Kenneth R. Chelst**, Ph.D., professor of industrial and systems engineering in the College of Engineering the INFORMS® President's Award. This annual award is made for contributions that benefit the welfare of society. Chelst was selected for his pioneering work in developing a unique educational curriculum that introduces young Americans to operations research, and for his public safety policy and operational analysis that has guided city leaders and police, firefighter and emergency service executives through challenges they face in towns and cities across the United States.

Thomas B. Jankowski, Ph.D., has been appointed to the Michigan Department of Community Health committee tasked with streamlining a new system to better serve persons who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid benefits. Jankowski is the associate director of research for the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University, and an expert on the history and financial and social impact of Social Security and Medicare on older adults. Persons who are dual-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid must currently navigate both systems to access services, carrying two cards and filing two sets of forms for services. Under the new integrated care program, recipients would carry one card, work with one manager and be eligible for one set of benefits that incorporates both programs. Jankowski served on the board of directors of the Michigan Society of Gerontology and provided executive leadership at the Senior Alliance. He is the only person in the Senior Alliance's 30-year history to receive their McNamara Award two years in a row, in 2009 and 2010. Jankowski also heads Seniors Count!, a user-friendly database of senior demographics in Southeast Michigan