

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

### **Student Services**

President Wilson declared Friday, October 30, as Mental Health Day. Departments from across the campus joined together to present a day focused on self-care of our fellow Warriors. Highlights included the Student Success office coordinating over 2,000 first year students receiving a personal phone call from members of the faculty and staff (over 150 participating) checking in with the student to see how their semester is going and if they need any assistance. The Office of Marketing and Communications established a Mental Health Day web landing page and developed the "send a smile" virtual e-card campaign. The Dean of Students Office and Office of Educational Outreach coordinated the student "swag" giveaway, which included free Wayne State winter hats and Warrior yard signs, distributed by faculty and staff volunteers at the WSU extension centers and Matthaei Athletic Complex. Over 1,500 students stopped by to pick up their Warrior gear. The Academic Success Center, Office of Counseling and Psychological Services, and Office of Student Disability Services presented virtual self-care workshops, Residence Life presented resident self-care programs, and the Campus Activities Team presented a virtual, family friendly, Halloween party and magic show.

Despite the absence of in-person student activities, 444 student organizations have registered this academic year (530 total last academic year). Several student organization fairs have been presented providing students an opportunity to join organizations and organization involvement has been featured in the twice weekly Get Involved email that goes to all students.

### **OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**

Effective with Winter 2021's registration, students will be able to reserve a spot in selected courses, if the course is full. If a spot opens, the student on the waitlist will be notified and have an opportunity to claim the seat. So far, 600 sections have been configured to use wait listing.

### **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

#### **Student Service Center Peer-to-Peer Engagement Initiative**

The SSC is pleased to launch the Warrior2Warrior (W2W) Initiative. W2W aims to connect current and prospective Wayne State Students to other current WSU students in an effort to encourage engagement and dialogue. SSC Student Leaders will be a focal point throughout this initiative and will be able to provide a unique perspective to other Warriors that will benefit them in their journey at Wayne State University. The initiative has 3 pillars that are explained in detail below.

- **One on One Engagement:** Current and Prospective students can interact with Student Leaders in a variety of ways. This will include sending letters and postcards to prospective students, asking student to call in to the SSC to "Talk to an Everyday Warrior," or tuning in to the new Warrior Podcast where students will be discussing topics associated with being a Warrior.

- Call Campaigns: Student Leaders will conduct call campaigns on a variety of subjects ranging from verification to reminders. Students can get their questions answered by our Student Leaders, or the Leaders will get them in contact with the right staff for questions that need more in-depth discussion. This provides an additional layer of outreach that will encourage students both current and prospective to stay on track.
- Digital and Virtual Outreach: Videos and tutorials will be created to help guide current and prospective students with questions they have on everyday processes. The outreach will include topics like how to navigate Academics, the Student Service Center, and our Top 10 Things I Wish I Knew about WSU. The SSC will also create promotional videos to highlight our departments, programs, and current students.

### **WSU CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**

WSU received **\$9,653,092** from the US Department of Education to be used to provide emergency grants to students. The 2020-21 application went live on September 1, 2020. Preference is given to Pell-eligible undergraduate students who did not receive an award during the 2019-20 application period. As of October 26, 2020, 7,055 students have received a CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant, with a total of \$7,422,300 distributed thus far. The Office of Student Financial Aid will continue to award until the fund is exhausted.

### **National College Board Forum Presentation**

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Dawn Medley and Enrollment Project Director Amanda Rosales participated in a national roundtable discussion at this year's Annual College Board Forum entitled "Warrior Way Back: Reengaging returning students through debt forgiveness" on October 26, 2020. The Warrior Way Back program at WSU is a first-in-the-nation debt forgiveness program aimed at bringing WSU students who have stopped or dropped out for two or more years back to Wayne State. WWB has received national acclaim and has been replicated by several institutions and organizations across the nation.

### **NACAC National Panel Presentations**

Senior Director for Undergraduate Admissions Ericka Matthews-Jackson was a featured panelist in the 2020 National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) National Town Hall titled "Navigating the Impact of Racism on College Admission". NACAC Executive Director for Educational Content and Policy David Hawkins noted that WSU has proven exemplary in its efforts to create substantial change with equitable admission. "Wayne State University has received national acclaim for its efforts to reach out to underrepresented populations and for achieving real results in opening the doors to higher education for thousands of students. The university is an anchor in a city that has faced difficult times socially and economically, and it remains a beacon for institutions seeking to be an engine of advancement and social responsibility. For these reasons and more, NACAC was grateful that Wayne State lent its voice to our town hall on racism and the college admission profession."

## **EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **Office of International Programs (OIP)**

- The U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates has awarded a \$100,000 grant to Wayne State University to build on its partnership with the American University of Ras Al Khaimah, expand U.S.-UAE higher education collaborations and strengthen

relationships between the two countries. A virtual signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding was held Oct. 6 at American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK) in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, featuring U.S. Ambassador John Rakolta, AURAK President Hassan Al Alkim, Provost Stephen C. Wilhite, and WSU President M. Roy Wilson via video. Ahmad Ezzeddine, associate vice president for educational outreach and international programs, led the project in Detroit and joined the ceremony live online.

- WSU was selected as the sole provider of Gateway Orientation for foreign Fulbright awardees this year and hosted its second session in November-December for more than 200 scholars. The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship educational and cultural exchange program, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Orientation helps grantees understand the requirements of their program, opportunities and expectations, the importance of networking and provides a cultural orientation to the U.S. More than 900 awardees from 127 countries took part in this first session this year, with all orientations comprising synchronous sessions on Zoom and asynchronous assignments via Canvas. Each Zoom session includes small breakout groups led by a volunteer faculty/staff facilitator from WSU. This latest orientation session was for new awardees and those who deferred the start of their programs.
- In October, OIP hosted virtual Fulbright Pre-Departure Orientation for 32 American awardees going to the Middle East/North Africa region to study. This is the second year WSU was selected to host the MENA orientation program.
- International Education Week, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education to promote international awareness, engagement and exchange, was celebrated nationwide Nov. 16-20. Wayne State's activities included a lunch and learn series featuring faculty-led dialogue with the campus community surrounding international topics, a virtual world languages expo, a virtual exchange information session, and international trivia games for students, faculty, and staff.
- Student recruitment continues online around the world, with OIP staff virtually visiting at least 50 different countries including the Philippines, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Canada, Mongolia, as well as a variety of countries from West Africa and the Middle East. The team "met" with thousands of prospective international students throughout October and November and participated in the Worldwide Virtual Fair Nov 2-6. Also in November, OIP hosted the first virtual Ontario Open House for students throughout Canada, particularly focusing on Ontario and students who automatically receive the Great Lakes Tuition Award. The Ontario Open House has been an annual event held in Windsor, but this year moved online.

### **Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC)**

- The TSSC celebrated National Transfer Student Week in October, partnering with various departments at WSU and hosting 22 virtual events for prospective and current transfer students. Many focused on popular programs such as nursing's RN to BSN, public health and the new welding and metallurgical program in the College of Engineering, and others were continuing events such as Coffee and Credits on Wednesdays and Transfer Chats on Fridays.
- The TSSC partnered with the Advisor Training Academy to create the new Transfer Advising Champion Award, which was awarded to Joyce Lien, an academic advisor in engineering technology. The award recognizes exceptional performance and innovation in academic advising at WSU.

### **Harris Literacy Center (HLC)**

- The HLC partnered with Reading Works to host the 6th Annual Practice-Based Updates for Literacy Skill development and Employment (PULSE) conference in November. This interactive forum for adult education and literacy practitioners and administrators provides a holistic professional development opportunity on research-based best practices. This is the first year the program was held virtually. Highlights included an employer panel presentation and sessions focused on creating personal connections in a socially distant world; family literacy; accessibility and collaboration in the new normal; leading from a posture of equity; leading remote teams; financial coaching best practices; exploring accessible technology for all learners; and art therapy for self-care.
- In response to the pandemic, adult literacy and math classes that were previously presented in-person have been redesigned for an online platform using Canvas. Staff and volunteers are working with HLC adult students to provide not only instruction in math and reading, but also digital technology. The center has partnered with the School of Medicine with the goal that all Harris learners have an opportunity to meet with a medical student for homework help and digital literacy.

## **SCHOOL AND COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS**

### **College of Fine Performing and Communication Arts**

#### **Department of Communication**

Presentation with the National Press Club: Communicating COVID-19: Journalism's Role in the Ongoing Pandemic Event. On October 5, The National Press Club President and WSU alum Michael Freedman participated in an online discussion about the role of journalism in the public health. The program was sponsored by the Wayne State University Alumni Association. Matthew Seeger, dean of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication, Beth Konrad, president of the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, and Alicia Nails, director of the Wayne State Journalism Institute for Media Diversity participated.

#### **Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance**

Students participated in Twilight: Gods, with Michigan Opera. Dance and theatre students assisted with this unique, socially distant venture, kicking off MOT's 50th anniversary next year. The reviews were overwhelmingly positive. The performance received rave reviews from across the nation.

#### **James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History**

The department is presenting IN THE AIR: VOICES FROM DETROIT AND BEYOND, September 2020 through April 2021. The series includes works created by local and national artists in response to the global pandemic and racial injustice, featured on a billboard, located at the corner of S. Woodward and E. Canfield, Detroit. A viewing of a total of eight solo-presentations, each one month in duration, began September 15, 2020.

### **Honors College**

In Fall 2020, the Honors College hosted a virtual event, "Zoom to the Finish!", to launch its new Finish Line Fund. The fund provides additional scholarship support for outstanding seniors--allowing them to focus on preparing for their next steps instead of taking on additional debt. (Over 70% of Irvin D. Reid Honors College students go on to graduate

school or professional school.) The first Finish Line scholarships--six scholarships of \$1000 each--will be awarded in Winter 2021.

## **Law School**

### **Law School overview**

Wayne Law continued its upward trajectory in 2020. The Law School's *U.S. News & World Report* ranking climbed to No. 83 country, culminating a 17-point jump in the last three years. The Law School is No. 2 in Michigan. Wayne Law's July 2020 Michigan bar exam pass rate for first-time test takers (pre-appeal) is 91% - eclipsing the statewide average of 79%. The incoming class of 2020 was our academically strongest ever and one of the most diverse in recent memory, with a 159 median LSAT score, a 3.65 median GPA, and nearly 1 in 5 students self-identifying as Black, Hispanic/Latinx, or Native American. The interdisciplinary Minor in Law program for undergraduate students is growing quickly; since launching last year, more than 120 students have declared the minor. The Law School also established a new partnership this fall to offer the law minor with the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. The Law School's new Master of Studies in Law for non-lawyer human resources professionals will launch this winter. Our centers continue to attract national attention for their work. The Law School received a \$1 million grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in the spring to support the Levin Center.

### **Faculty and students**

Wayne Law endowed two new research scholar positions this year, naming William Ortman the Edward M. Wise Research Scholar and Sanjukta Paul the Romano Stancroff Research Scholar. Ortman's paper "When Plea Bargaining Became Normal" was selected for presentation at the prestigious Stanford/Harvard/Yale Junior Faculty Forum this fall. Paul's forthcoming book with Cambridge University Press is "Solidarity in the Shadow of Antitrust: Labor and the Legal Idea of Competition." We welcomed new faculty members Khaled Beydoun, an internationally-prominent critical race theorist and expert on Islamophobia, and Heather Walter-McCabe, who holds a joint appointment with the School of Social Work and whose research explores the intersection of law, social work, and public health. Our students also made significant contributions to the field. The Black Law Students Association hosted the inaugural "Be the Change" event, bringing 60 middle schoolers from David Ellis Academy to the Law School. The hands-on experience taught young people the fundamentals of public speaking and argumentation, empowering them to develop core critical-thinking and debate skills – a window into law school for middle schoolers – that boosts confidence and self-esteem. Third-year student Jessica Biondo was awarded a national Ms. JD fellowship. Biondo is the first Wayne Law student to earn the distinction and only the second law student in Michigan.

## **Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences**

### **Applied Health Sciences**

Enrollment for 2020 is up for all programs from 2019, with Mortuary Science having its largest class in the last 40 years. Clinical Laboratory Science, Mortuary Science and Pathologists' Assistant programs all have 100% employment rate of graduates. The online Mortuary Science Program has expanded the traditional geographic reach of the program to as far as Arizona and Idaho and is exploring the possibility of proposing an online bachelor degree completion program.

**Professor Lauren Budrow** earned certification as a Quality Matters course reviewer, making her the first funeral service educator in the U.S. to achieve this recognition.