

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

#### **College of Engineering**

A trio of transformative innovation research projects led by Wayne State researchers — including Jeremy Rickli, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering, and Ming Dong, professor of computer science — were awarded \$270,000 from the MTRAC Innovation Hub for Advanced Computing. The projects aim to tackle deep technology opportunities in high impact sectors, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, augmented reality and intelligent automation.

Over six decades, Albert King became a world-renowned researcher in vehicle safety and injury biomechanics. He was instrumental to the growth of biomedical engineering education at Wayne State, impacting the lives of countless students as a teacher and mentor. A new \$750,000 endowed professorship for the College of Engineering recently established in Dr. King's name will showcase his work to future generations, symbolize Wayne State's historic value to the field of biomechanics, attract outstanding new faculty and provide recipients with one of the university's highest honors.

An interdisciplinary team of researchers and students from Wayne State University — led by Carol Miller, professor of civil and environmental engineering — received a one-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop technologies that address stormwater and wastewater infrastructure needs in communities, particularly those that are small, rural, tribal and/or disadvantaged. The project will offer an opportunity to understand how green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) affects urban groundwater quality and flow by piloting a network of community-based groundwater monitoring stations surrounding GSI sites in Detroit. The team will develop and deploy an innovative design that uses small monitoring wells to create a groundwater modeling system that is modular and low-cost, making it highly adaptable to a variety of site conditions of GSI and urban soils.

Wayne State University and the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc. (NACME) partnered to implement programs designed to increase the number and performance of historically under-represented undergraduate students in engineering or computer science. As a first step in this partnership, a cohort of four students has been selected to receive \$2,500 in NACME scholarships. These students will also have opportunities for mentoring and career assistance through NACME-affiliated industry leaders. This initiative's objective is to improve the capacity of the university to recruit, enroll, educate, retain and graduate underrepresented minority students in these disciplines in order to significantly increase their number as members of Wayne State's graduating classes and ultimately as competitive participants in the nation's engineering and computer science workforce.

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

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA) at Wayne State University is excited to celebrate its 41th Annual Arts Achievement Awards. The award

recognizes alumni and former students for their exceptional accomplishments in the arts and communication fields. This year's awardees range from a noted cinematographer, accomplished lyric soprano to an internationally acclaimed visual artist and an accomplished Shakespeare speech and dialect coach.

CFPCA students, faculty and staff continue to adapt and thrive amidst COVID-19. The University Art Collection, which is housed in the college, launched an online gallery that is used as a resource for scholarship and provides students with an authentic hands-on experience with original works of art.

The Department of Communication professor Michael Fuhlhage received the American Journalism Historians Association National Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award is given to professors who excel at teaching in the areas of journalism and mass communication history, makes a positive impact on student learning, and offers an outstanding example for other educators.

The Department of Music recently welcomed Dr. Brandon Waddles as a full-time lecturer in choral conducting and music education. Dr. Waddles has joined Detroit-centric professional artists with the department's choral ensembles for new virtual experiences that focus on many musical techniques within the musical arena. These sessions are livestreamed via the department's <https://www.facebook.com/waynestatemusic> page.

Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance students of Motor City Cabaret and the cast of *Trivoya Gold* have created **Songs For Change**, a series of student-led virtual cabaret performances to raise money for a variety of social justice organizations.

Elise Komer, a rising senior in Music Business, was named the 2020 Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award recipient by the Theodore Presser Foundation. This award is given annually to a Wayne State University Department of Music student for their musical and academic merit.

### **College of Nursing**

The College of Nursing continued its upward trajectory in 2020. The college's MSN and DNP programs were ranked among the top in the country by *U.S. News & World Report 2021 Best Graduate Schools*. The college has made substantial advances in these graduate program rankings since the 2019 report. In this timeframe, the MSN program rose from #50 to #40; the DNP program rose from #39 to #31. The DNP program is ranked No. 2 in Michigan. Despite the pandemic, the undergraduate program NCLEX pass rates for 2020 for first-time test takers was 93.6%. The College's enrollment has increased by 7.95% with the largest growth in our undergraduate program at 12.95%. We have also admitted our largest freshman direct admit class (entrance to the nursing program from high school) at 32 students this Fall 2020. The College of Nursing has been instrumental to the University Public Health Committee and COVID-19 tracking and prevention efforts on campus. The new *Student Commons* on the third floor of the Cohn building was completed in the summer; it was 100% donor funded. A ribbon cutting will occur in Fall 2021 along with our 75 plus 1 anniversary celebration.

The year began with the College of Nursing C2 Pipeline Program was selected for the 2020 Best of Detroit Award in the Education category by the Detroit Award Program. Faculty,

students and administrators from the College of Nursing and the Campus Health Center have been instrumental to the COVID-19 testing, case investigation and contact tracing and the flu shot mandate on the university campus and in the Detroit Community. The Campus Health Center is owned and operated by the College of Nursing's Nursing Practice Corporation. The College opened a primary care clinic in partnership with Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corporation providing an opportunity to embed primary care-educated nurse practitioners in a local neighborhood and further the College of Nursing's commitment to its urban community. In April, the College of Nursing collaborated with the School of Social Work and other Wayne State departments to launch a crisis hotline for Metro Detroit first responders and healthcare professionals toiling on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. In June, Dr. Cynthera McNeil was awarded HRSA (nearly \$1.5 million) to expand mental health care access and transform the current and future workforce by creating fully integrated behavioral health/primary care collaborative systems in two medically underserved communities in Detroit. The College collaborated with multiple WSU programs and the Provost's office with \$2 million in funding from the United Way and the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities Rapid Response to provide health care services to low-income older adults as part of Connecting Seniors, which is an effort to close the generational digital divide. Lastly, in November, Dr. Dalia Khalil was awarded funding from NIH/NICHHD (\$161,340) for a study focused on Family Stress, Co-parenting, and Infant Development among Immigrant Arab-American Families.

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

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and EACPHS's faculty and staff continue to go above and beyond to serve our students and our community. Due to the requirements of our accrediting bodies, we made significant adjustments to ensure continuity of clinical rotations, as well as many in-person classes and labs in full PPE. The recent MDHHS's "Pause to Save Lives" guidance required our faculty to adapt and work creatively to transition our in-person classes into online formats. Due to the nature of our college's clinical expertise, we are providing direct service provision in many area hospitals. Several faculty continue to treat COVID-19 patients, and others are volunteering at COVID-19 testing sites. Dr. Susan Davis (Professor, Pharmacy Practice) is currently serving on the National Institute of Health's COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel. Three other members of the College—Dr. Mark Evely (Chair, Mortuary Science), Dr. Justine Gortney (Assoc. Professor, Pharmacy Practice), and Heather Sandlin (Academic Service Officer)—were recognized, alongside other WSU faculty, in the annual Excellence in Assessment Awards, co-sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. Additionally, in the lead up to the holiday season, EACPHS faculty and staff raised nearly \$4000 for the Friends of Foster Kids and Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Despite the challenges of 2020, our College community remains strong, resolute, and ready for 2021.

### **School of Social Work (SSW)**

In support of our urban mission to advance social justice, the SSW has enhanced its academic mission in a variety of ways: 1) Undergrad students can participate in two new minors, Social Work and Social Justice and Law and Social Work (over 40 students enrolled); and 2) Graduate students can enroll in our program on Holistic Defense involving Law and SSW students – preparing them to work in teams to divert individuals from incarceration. At the graduate level we are also preparing for the roll out of a revised curriculum for fall 2021. We have strived to support the wellness of our students, faculty and staff during this incredibly stressful time with a series of virtual wellness initiatives including twice-weekly yoga sessions,

town halls and lunches with Dean Kubiak. The response to these support initiatives has been robust and positive. In the area of development, we are proud to announce that Detroit leader William F. Pickard, Ph.D. has pledged \$250,000 to support 5 new scholarships in the SSW. We also received a \$50,000 donation from David Juergens to enhance the Vernon Edward Keye Memorial Scholarship. In the area of research, the SSW contains two active centers which continue to empower social change in Detroit and beyond. The Center for Social Work Research will be working closely with Professor Poco Kernsmith on her recent \$2.25 million CDC award to strengthen violence prevention and response efforts in Michigan schools. In collaboration with the WSU School of Medicine, the Wayne County Jail and the Michigan Justice Fund, the SSW Center for Behavioral Health and Justice developed and released a toolkit of key strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in jails. The toolkit has received national recognition and funding from the CDC Foundation for dissemination. The toolkit has also been shared with President-elect Joe Biden's transition team by one of the CBHJ's key partners serving in this space. The School continues to support our Detroit community throughout COVID-19 via the recently launched older adult caregiver support line. Funded as part of the WSU \$2 million Connecting Seniors award, the support line is staffed by Social Work faculty, professionals and supervised students who provide emotional support, resources and referrals for caregivers and the person they are caring for in the HOPE Village area of Detroit. The free and confidential support line number is 1-800-854-1506.

### **STUDENT SERVICES**

Campus housing and dining successfully completed the fall semester, serving 1500+ residents in our four open residences. Our success during the fall semester is attributed to the strong cooperation of our students with our COVID mitigation strategies, the vigilance of our full-time and student staff in prioritizing our safety protocols, and a close cooperation with the Campus Health Center on a robust COVID testing and quarantine/isolation process. Partnering with the Henry Ford Health System, we began offering housing at Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments in mid-December to hospital staff who choose not to travel home between work shifts.

The fall pilot of the First Day Inclusive Access course material program was successfully completed, involving 15 courses with 113 sections serving 5160 students. Total savings for all participants was \$145,314 with per-student savings ranging from \$29 to \$65. The pilot committee, appointed by the provost and the Faculty Senate policy committee, has extended the pilot into winter semester 2021, involving 40+ courses.

The Campus Activities Team presented 43 programs for students, with 828 in total attendance and 906 receiving (via mail) arts and crafts engagement kits to build on a zoom activity. Over 1000 students participated in the Mental Health Day "swag pick up" activity at the extension centers and Matthaei where students received Wayne State knit caps and "Proud Warrior Studying Here/WSU Satellite Campus" yard signs.

The W Food Pantry pivoted to serve as a technology resources distribution center. Currently, 104 students are borrowing laptops, 91 borrowing internet hot spots, 37 borrowing webcams, nine borrowing graphing calculators, and seven borrowing finance calculators. All this technology is lent for an unlimited time period at no cost to the student.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS**

### **University Advising**

- Through the Advisor Training Academy (ATA), we have offered the following virtual series: Case Management, Writing Your Personal Philosophy of Advising, Career Planning in Advising and Developing your Professional Brand in a Virtual Environment. In addition to the workshop series, the advising community is staying connected through professional development workshops, webinars and drop-in training sessions. A Canvas course for the onboarding training of new advisors was launched in the fall semester and used for the level one certification training. December 9<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a virtual ATA Awards and Recognition Tea where we recognize the excellent work of advisors across campus.
- University Advising Center has partnered with Enrollment Management to offer virtual “Get Registered” events for current undergraduate students who are not registered for winter 2021. We are targeting freshmen students with one-stop student support through 6 virtual events. Additionally, we are sending a series of communications to upper-division students connecting them to their assigned advisor for assistance with winter 2021 registration.
- The Pre-Nursing academic advisor has created videos, communication plan and dedicated “Freshmen Friday” services for his 2020 cohort of students and to date, 79% of his cohort are registered for winter 2021.
- The Warrior Way Back advisor transitioned all her student success workshops to a virtual platform for returning and adult learner students supporting their return to Wayne and continued success toward completing their degree.

### **Academic Success Center**

- The Academic Success Center is pleased to announce that the Peer Assisted Learning program and the Tutor Training Academy are expanding tutoring support through new collaborations with student organizations. As of the Fall 2020 semester, volunteer tutors began receiving training and continued professional development through the Tutor Training Academy (TTA). The TTA’s training curriculum has been nationally approved by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), and it adheres to the International Tutor Training Program Certification Standards. Extension of this ongoing support to student organizations will enhance volunteer tutors’ academic credentials as they assist their peers in accomplishing academic goals.
- On Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Study Skills Academy and the Peer Assisted Learning program facilitated trivia contests, and study skills and exam prep sessions as part of the fall semester Virtual Study Center Take-over. Student leaders and staff hosted sessions to help students take an occasional break and prepare for a strong finish to the fall semester.
- Tutors, Supplemental Instruction Leaders, peer mentors and learning community coordinators reinforced messaging about the importance of early registration for the Winter semester and participation in “Get Registered” events. Additionally, students received registration reminders from FYS instructors and the WISR communities.

### **Academic Pathways to Excellence (APEX)**

- As of 11/30/20, **70%** of APEX freshmen are registered for Winter 2020, a **decrease of 5.5%** compared to last year.
- APEX freshmen have met *biweekly* (virtually) with their advisors at a rate of **85%** for the fall 2020 semester.
- The first-year retention rate of the APEX 2019 cohort was **72%**.
- Former APEX Scholar **Dorothy Jones (2015)** is graduating and will deliver the December Commencement Address for the College of Fine, Performing and Communications Arts on 12/15/20.

**Office of Federal TRIO:** Educational Opportunity Center (TRIO-EOC) and the D.R.E.A.M Team Student Organization hosted a virtual First-Generation Students Celebration titled “First Gen Friday” November 6, 2020. The event was dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of students who are “first” in their families to complete a college degree program. The TRIO-EOC had entered into a partnership with Governor Whitmer’s Futures for Frontliner’s Program designed to provide educational assistance to essential workers fighting on the “frontlines” of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Educational Opportunity Center is providing career counseling, college admissions and financial aid application assistance to “frontliners” in collaboration with the Detroit Chamber of Commerce “Detroit Reconnect” Program.

**Career Services:** Career Services continues to host Employer and Career related events and build new partnerships including; the Careers and Culture series with the Engineering Career Resource Center, a Career Week event with Career Placement and Planning (MISB), Alumni Relations and the Engineering Career Resource Center, State of Michigan and the City of Detroit.

**Internships:** To provide additional options, Career Services partnered with 2 platforms, Forage and Parker Dewey which offer remote short-term projects, highlighted on our website.

- **Forage** offers virtual experiences training - programs that build student's skills/competencies. Leading companies (i.e... GE, Citi, KPMG) provides "life-like" tasks that allow students the sense of that environment. Tasks are self-paced, 5-6hrs, offering a certificate, and the opportunity to be placed in a database for companies seeking top talent.
- **Parker Dewey (Micro-Internships)** are short-term (5 to 40hrs.), professional paid work experiences provided by employers, completed remotely, and provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills, explore career paths, and develop their professional networks.

**Handshake Platform:** Over 10,000 employers have been invited to participate using the Handshake platform. To increase employer participation dedicated to WSU, we are in collaboration with WSU Alumni Relations to invite their cohort of alumni employers to participate, and support WSU students. There have been 376 students and alumni that have signed up for this platform.

### **Student Disability Services**

- As of December 2020, we have 1763 active student cases in SDS

- For the Fall 2020 semester, 700 SDS-registered students received academic accommodations, a 25% increase in the number of students receiving accommodations in Fall 2019.
- 75% of students who received Fall 2020 accommodations have already registered for the Winter 2021 semester.
- SDS continues to host weekly outreach meetings for students to monitor progress in the current semester and to support students in registering for next semester.

### **EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

The Office of Educational Outreach and International Programs has received more than \$735,000 in grant funding in 2020 from a variety of national and international organizations, including the Institute of International Education, World Learning, the U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates, the Detroit Regional Chamber, Macomb County. Projects ranged from hosting orientation for Fulbright Awardee groups to the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program to the Detroit Talent Hub.

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

OIP, on behalf of Wayne State, was selected as the sole provider for online Gateway Orientation for 270 foreign Fulbright awardees in November-December. 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. Orientation includes synchronous sessions on Zoom and asynchronous assignments via Canvas. Each Zoom session included small breakout groups led by a volunteer faculty/staff facilitator from WSU.

Faculty and administrators who want to embed an online, team-based international component to their courses participated in an introductory webinar hosted by OIP and the SUNY COIL Center. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) helps students develop cross-cultural communication skills and a greater appreciation for diverse viewpoints through online team-based projects. The webinar is part of a collaboration between WSU and American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK), United Arab Emirates. The U.S. Embassy in UAE awarded a \$100,000 grant to WSU to build on its partnership with AURAK, expand U.S.-UAE higher education collaborations and strengthen relationships between the two countries. Although AURAK is the primary partner in the project, programming will extend to select Emirati and American universities. WSU is partnering with the SUNY COIL Center to provide workshops customized to suit the needs of participating faculty and staff and build institutional capacity for developing and supporting virtual exchanges.

#### **Study Abroad and Global Programs**

A study abroad program to Paris traditionally offered over spring break has transitioned to a fully virtual experience for 2021, with 11 participants already confirmed. Study Abroad also is working with the Mike Ilitch School of Business to move several programs from in-person to virtual in spring/summer 2021.

**Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC)**

The TSSC conducted over 900 virtual advising appointments (Teams, Zoom and phone) between March and December with prospective, newly admitted and current transfer students. The team, including student ambassadors, offers virtual “Coffee and Credits” meetings every Wednesday and “Transfer Chats” every Friday. The TSSC also:

- Partnered with the Office for Teaching and Learning to offer a transfer student success seminar for faculty and staff. The workshop covered challenges transfer students face and how faculty and staff can help them achieve academically and personally at WSU. The event included a student panel, and experts shared strategies and resources for supporting the success of transfer students;
- Provided information sessions at Macomb College and five Transfer Student Orientation events at WSU, as well as took part in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society fall virtual college fair, providing the staff with the chance to engage with the top 10% two-year college, transfer-bound students in the country;
- Signed new articulation agreements on behalf of WSU with Henry Ford College in mechanical engineering and social work; and
- Created a calling campaign for 2021 admitted transfer students to congratulate them on their admission and discuss next steps (register for orientation, meet with an advisor and register for classes).

**Harris Literacy Center (HLC)**

Beginning in January, HLP will begin running sections of online adult literacy and math classes to Detroit community members looking to increase foundational skills. Newly incorporated into this endeavor is an emphasis on digital literacy and, as many individuals are experiencing challenging economic times, financial literacy will also be addressed during these sessions.