

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### **College of Education**

Leah Ketcheson, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of Health and Physical Education, will represent Wayne State's Division of Kinesiology in her role on the Host Committee for the World Unified Cup Games coming to Detroit summer 2022. The university will play an integral role in hosting many events, including healthy athlete screenings, before, during, and after competition. (Athletes with and without disabilities can have free health screenings and access to resources for follow-up.)

Alumna Debra White-Hunt (M.Ed '79) was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in recognition of her leadership, service to the community, and efforts to empower women and girls through dance.

The College launched a new, fully-online Master of Arts in Evaluation and was able to move the Master of Science in Community Health to fully online.

#### **College of Engineering**

The Wayne State University student chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) took first place in the finals of the 2021 ELECTRI International/NECA Electrical Contracting Innovation Challenge (ECIC) in early October. Six seniors in the College of Engineering's construction management (CMT) program represented the 26-member team in Nashville to conclude a yearlong competition in which students collaborate with local professionals, apply classroom learning, and use their creativity and ingenuity to design a new electrical system for a proposed residence hall. The competition, formerly titled the Green Energy Challenge, is integrated annually into Wayne State's senior capstone program.

New research from computer scientists and oncologists at Wayne State aims to improve patient care by discovering a set of biomarkers associated with primary and lethal prostate cancers, which can allow for more targeted and personalized treatment. A three-year project received \$863,222 from the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program. Suzan Arslanturk, assistant professor of computer science, is the project's principal investigator. Sorin Draghici, professor of computer science, is a co-PI on the project along with Professor Elisabeth Heath and Associate Professor Gregory Dyson from the Department of Oncology in the School of Medicine.

Eranda Nikolla, professor of chemical engineering and materials science, received the 2021 Giuseppe Parravano Memorial Award for Excellence in Catalysis Research and Development. She also gave the keynote address at the 42nd annual Michigan Catalysis Society Fall Symposium, held virtually on Sept. 29. Dr. Nikolla has contributed more than a decade of research to address fossil fuel dependence through designing cost-effective catalysts for efficient and environmentally friendly energy and chemical conversion.

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

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA) at Wayne State University celebrated the 42nd annual Arts Achievement Awards. This year, the college recognized nine honorees from both 2020 and 2021 which took place on Thursday, Nov. 4, at Wayne State's Shaver Music Recital Hall. Since its inception, the event celebrates outstanding alumni and former students for their commitment to and advocacy for the arts and communication, and for achievements in their respective fields. The college celebrated the award recipients during a special ceremony, which was free and open to the public.

Department of Communication Senior Lecturer Juanita Anderson took the stage at Film at Lincoln Center as Executive Producer of *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* (Christine Choy, Renee Tajima Peña, 1987), when the new restoration of the film premiered at the New York Film Festival on October 2, 2021. This was her first national appearance with the film since its initial release 33 years ago.

A media history research group in the Department of Communication, including Associate Professor Michael Fuhlhage, doctoral candidates Keena Neal and Darryl Frazier, and doctoral student Anna Lindner have been awarded the J. William Snorgrass Memorial Award for Outstanding Paper on Minority Journalism for their paper "If Ever Saints Wept and Hell Rejoiced, It Must Have Been Over the Passage of That Law: The 1850 Fugitive Slave Act in Detroit River Borderlands Newspapers, 1851-1852." They presented it at the American Journalism Historians Association annual convention Oct. 6-9.

Associate Professor and Elaine L. Jacob Endowed Chair Lauren Kalman received the Françoise van den Bosch Award at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam for her contribution to the field of contemporary jewelry and craft.

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

On Oct. 20, WSU Applebaum hosted its [18th annual College Research Day](#) live on Zoom. More than 360 students, faculty, staff and alumni tuned in to watch Dr. Arthur Kim of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital deliver the keynote lecture, "Hepatitis C Virus: From Evolution to Revolution," and participate in a Q&A session ahead of the research awards presentation. More than 60 students from both sides of the college submitted research projects exploring everything from superbug solutions to canine-assisted stress reduction, with 18 of them receiving awards.

Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice Brittany Stewart is a co-investigator on a \$18 million grant the university was awarded by the National Institutes of Health to intercept chronic disease in Black communities, and will serve as pharmacist core administrator for WSU's new [Center for Multiple Chronic Diseases Associated with Health Disparities: Prevention, Treatment and Management](#).

### **Honors College**

On September 30 and October 27, the Irvin D. Reid Honors College hosted an "iDetroit Panel," which was coordinated by two Honors faculty members, Dr. Beth Fowler and Dr. Bryan Ellis, and moderated by Honors dean Dr. John Corvino. The panel discussions are based on Marcus Lyon's I.Detroit Human Atlas project. The September 30 panel featured Marcus Lyon and one of his subjects, Jessica Care Moore, speaking via Zoom to HON 1000 students about what engagement with Detroit can look like. The October 27 panel was

available to students as an in-person or live-streamed event, and welcomed Pamela Esshaki and Shumayim “Mama Shu” Harris, both of whom have been recognized for their activism and devotion to Detroit community causes. They discussed their experiences in a city defined by the auto industry and thoughts about moving forward in post-industrial spaces. Two additional panels will be held during the academic year.

A new series for students, “Honors Authors” has been developed to showcase the recent publications by Honors faculty. The first in the series took place in mid-November in collaboration with the Political Science Student Association and highlight the new book by Honors faculty Dr. Kevin Deegan-Krause. A second Honors Authors event is scheduled to celebrate a new book by Honors faculty Dr. Bryan Ellis.

### **Law School**

Building upon its ascent in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, Wayne Law has continued to see an upward trend in its national reputation. *The National Jurist* and *preLaw* magazine named Wayne Law a [Best Value Law School](#) for the eighth consecutive year, with the school breaking into the top 25 for the first time at #22. *PreLaw* also recognized Wayne Law in this edition as one of the top law schools in the Business Law and Criminal Law categories, and in the Human Rights Law category in their [2021 Back to School edition](#). The law school also broke into [Above the Law's 2021 Top 50 Law Schools](#) ranking for the first time ever this year, joining the list at #38.

The law school's success is driven in part by its outstanding students. This fall, Wayne Law welcomed a 2021 1L class that is the most academically well-credentialed in its history and one of the most diverse in recent memory. Comprised of 123 students from 39 undergraduate schools, the new class is 54% female and 46% male and boasts median GPA and LSAT scores of 3.75 and 161. Forty percent of the class self-identifies as persons of color.

The law school continues its innovative and impactful work in the community and its alumni continue to make history. The school just launched the Warrior Eviction Defense Corps, a new partnership between Wayne Law, Lakeshore Legal Aid and the City of Detroit that will help Detroit residents unable to pay rent due to COVID-19 to remain in their homes. Wayne Law students will draft pleadings, staff virtual eviction dockets in the 36th District Court, conduct client outreach and intake, and draft settlement agreements and conditional dismissals for tenants in the Covid Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Our alumni notched another historic first when [Fadwa Hammoud](#) '10, the first Arab-American state solicitor general in the country, also became the first Arab-American Muslim woman to argue before the United States Supreme Court when she appeared on behalf of the State of Michigan in early October.

### **Mike Ilitch School of Business**

The Mike Ilitch School of Business received its highest ranking in seven years in *the U.S. News and World Report's* “Best Colleges” 2022 edition under the specialty [Best Undergraduate Business Programs](#). The school came in at 190th, up 11 places from last year. Of the Michigan schools ranked, Wayne State's program was third in the state behind the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Michigan State University. *U.S. News* also ranks the Ilitch School among the nation's [Best Part-Time M.B.A. Programs](#). Wayne State came in at 158th in 2022, up 17 places from last year.

A team of academic advisors from the Ilitch School's Frederick Hessler Student Success Center have been selected to receive the WSU Advisor Training Academy's [Outstanding Academic Advising Team Award](#) for 2021. This award is given to advising teams who make an outstanding impact on students and the programs/degrees they support through collective dedication, innovation, collaboration and approach.

Ilitch School Professor of Global Supply Chain Management [Tingting Yan](#) had an article accepted for publication in *Journal of Operations Management*, one of the top scholarly journals in the field. The article is titled "Thinking alike or not: Performance implications of transactional psychological contract congruence in buyer-supplier new product development projects."

### **School of Information Sciences (SIS)**

The School of Information Sciences (SIS) is very pleased to be working with the University of the US Virgin Islands, an HBCU, as it coordinates the arrival in January of a cohort of 14 students, who will be seeking the SIS MLIS degree online.

SIS Associate Professor Dr. Kafi Kumasi was honored with the President's Award at the Michigan Association for Media in Education's MAME 48 Conference. She was joined by two SIS students at the conference to present on Dr. Kumasi's grant project: Restoring Urban School Libraries (RUSL). Additionally, Dr. Kumasi presented with SIS adjunct faculty member Gwenn Marchesano and school library practicum coordinator Kathleen McBroom a research project, *Hip Hop in the School Library: Rationale, Resources and Radical Teaching*. This work reimagines what supporting youth literacy and information behaviors looks like through a hip-hop framework that Dr. Kumasi developed called InFLOmation.

SIS student Sarah M. Henry was named a Diversity Scholar by the Association of Research Libraries. Among her activities, she has worked on a Graduate Student Assistantship (GSA) project for the WSU Libraries that is a research guide about WSU President Roy Wilson's reading selections that led to a focused collection development project.

SIS alumna Michelle Jahra McKinney was named Executive Director of Detroit Sound Conservancy. She entered the world of archiving through the need to preserve the work and music collection of her late husband, the renowned local jazz master and educator Harold McKinney.

### **School of Social Work**

Center for Behavioral Health and Justice and partners released an "Overview of the Criminal Legal System in Michigan: Adults and Youth" report illuminated gaps in Michigan's criminal legal data and offers a roadmap to data integration because "missing data equals missing people". The report was highlighted in a recent WDET Detroit Today with Steven Henderson interview featuring Dean Sheryl Kubiak and a Detroit Free Press OpEd coauthored by Lt. Gov Gilchrist, Dean Sheryl Kubiak, and Melanca Clark.

Professor Jun Sung Hong was named a "World Expert in Bullying" by Expertscape based on PubMed algorithms placing him in the top 0.1% of scholars writing about bullying over the past decade.

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) class of 2022 has come together to form an online student community for support and increased awareness on ways to stay connected in the new socially distanced landscape.

Professor Richard Smith has been awarded two Ford Community Foundation Grants allowing students to put classroom knowledge into community action while working to improve our Detroit home. Under Smith's guidance, Masters of Social Work (MSW) students will work with Demographic Inspirations and Dexter-Linwood community members to establish funding and resources to assist with the elimination of blight, re-purposing of space and establishment of affordable housing in their neighborhood. Smith and MSW students will also be collaborating with Southwest Economic Solutions to support clients struggling to assess services that moved online and develop creative solutions to enhance digital literacy.

Social Work alum Jeffrey Williams was recently featured on the Today@Wayne podcast discussing the pressure for athletes to be the GOAT (greatest of all time), the toll this can have on their mental health, and the emerging viewpoint that mental health and physical health hold the same weight on the field.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Thanks to new partnerships with the First-Year Residential Experience (FYRE) Learning Community, peer assisted learning tutors began providing drop-in science and math tutoring for students in the Chatsworth Suites in October. Additionally, the Study Skills Academy is offering in-person open office hours to residents of the FYRE community, making academic support more accessible to residential students.

Student Disability Services (SDS) continues to maintain connections and promote services to students with disabilities, faculty, and staff by participating in a variety of activities including Transfer Student Orientation, School of Social Work Orientation and New Faculty Orientation, as well as presenting to the PAA Community Diversity Team and on the School of Social Work Demystifying Disability panel.

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

International recruitment is well underway around the world, with OIP participating in a wide variety of virtual fairs that focus on prospective student populations from countries including India, Canada, Turkey, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Liberia, Qatar, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Japan, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, and many more.

The Harris Literacy Program (HLP) hosted its 7th Annual Practice-Based Updates for Literacy Skill Development and Employment (PULSE) conference in November. PULSE is an interactive forum for adult education and literacy practitioners and administrators, providing a holistic professional development opportunity on research-based best practices. Topics included Microsoft tools for inclusive classrooms, tips for trauma-informed teaching to support students, pathways to literacy for refugees and asylum seekers, gaining a better understanding of our undocumented community, and how to build confidence by writing in stages.

**OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The OTL continues to innovate and expand programming to provide access to timely resources in the midst of a changing climate. We have introduced three new series this semester: [Monday Morning Teaching Bites](#), [Faculty Teaching Highlights](#), and the [Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Speaker Series](#). Monday Morning Teaching Bites is a weekly five-minute video of practical pedagogical strategies delivered to faculty by email for easy consumption. Faculty Teaching Highlights allow faculty members to share a strategy that they find helpful in their classes with other instructors on campus. Both of those offerings are designed for instructors who are interested in improving their classroom practices but may not be able to attend lengthier sessions, thus providing a new avenue to interact with the OTL. The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Speaker Series highlights another avenue of scholarly work that faculty may not be familiar with and continues the conversation on campus around teaching and learning. We have also revamped the [Virtual Resource Hub](#) to provide 24/7 access to materials on over 50 different topics.