

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### **College of Education**

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies, was named the inaugural Leonard Kaplan Endowed Professor. This is a five-year appointment. The endowed professorship was named in honor of Leonard Kaplan, Ed.D., an internationally recognized scholar, former professor in the College of Education, and an uncompromising advocate for the social and affective well-being of the "whole child" in America's schools. Funded by gifts from Kaplan's former students, family and friends, the endowed professorship recognizes an outstanding scholar whose research and teaching are aligned to addressing the needs of all students and promotes their healthy development and success. [education.wayne.edu/news/wayne-state-university-college-of-education-names-sarah-lenhoff-the-inaugural-leonard-kaplan-endowed-professor-46648](https://education.wayne.edu/news/wayne-state-university-college-of-education-names-sarah-lenhoff-the-inaugural-leonard-kaplan-endowed-professor-46648)

Erika Bocknek, associate professor of educational psychology, was quoted in an article in *The Detroit News* while providing mental health outreach — along with Heather Bishop, a doctoral student in counseling psychology and coordinator of the Mental Health and Wellness Clinic — at a rally organized by youth-led groups to support the Oxford community and individuals affected by the shooting at Oxford High School:

[detroitnews.com/story/news/local/oakland-county/2021/12/12/youth-led-groups-reach-out-oxford-students-grieve-heal-grow/6485283001](https://detroitnews.com/story/news/local/oakland-county/2021/12/12/youth-led-groups-reach-out-oxford-students-grieve-heal-grow/6485283001). The college's Mental Health and Wellness Clinic and the Family and Mental Wellness (FAM) Lab have been providing mental health services to individuals affected by the shooting at Oxford High School. The FAM Lab — which is led by Bocknek — is also collaborating with the Mala Child and Family Institute, a private practice led by alumna Hasti Raveau, to launch FAMText, a [free text service](#) through which parents and students can sign up to receive messages of support and healing as well as information about trauma response on a weekly or semi-weekly basis. Bishop and Addison Duane, a doctoral student in educational psychology, are working with Bocknek on FAMText.

Rachael Dombrowski, assistant professor of community health education and principal investigator, was awarded \$17,000 to support the **Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) School Health Initiative**. The project aims to improve the preparation and curricula of health education teachers throughout the United States. This is accomplished via hosting a Virtual Institute for Higher Education Academy and providing other training and technical assistance opportunities to higher education faculty and staff within health education programs. This year, the SOPHE School Health Initiative will also work to create resources for K-12 schools to improve school employee health and wellness, given the hardships many school employees have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **College of Engineering**

A smartphone application aiming to improve quality of life for the blind and visually impaired (BVI) population was deemed the winning project of the year-long Mobility for All competition. Medical student Jessica Tan and her team received \$10,000 from the Wayne Mobility Initiative, an interdisciplinary group that promotes collaboration and innovation across the university on mobility, including research, education and community engagement. A team

from the Department of Art and Art History were the runners-up and received \$5,000 for a collaboration with Deeply Rooted Produce (DRP), a mobile grocery service that works with local urban farmers to reach underserved communities.

Zheng Dong and Weisong Shi — faculty in the Department of Computer Science and researchers in The CAR Lab at Wayne State — received a three-year, \$499,861 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a solution that enhances real-time collaborative computing on the edge while addressing architectural, scalability and security challenges regarding Internet of Things (IoT) devices.

Carol Miller, a champion of water quality, sustainability and public health for more than three decades, was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to a four-year term on the Environmental Permit Review Commission. The 15-member EPRC advises the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy on disputed permit applications and contested permit decisions. Miller is a professor of civil and environmental engineering and the director of Healthy Urban Waters, a multi-disciplinary group of researchers focused on urban water infrastructure and resources.

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

**Art Department** - Intro and Advanced Mural Painting students (Fall 2021) produced a mural in sections inside the painting studio on the third floor of Old Main. The design for the mural was selected by a review committee lead by University Art Collection Curator Grace Serra. Artists and project managers Cara Marie Young and Ephemera Fae lead the project with their classmates in Professor Margi Weir's Advanced Mural Painting Class at Wayne State University's Old Main Building. The 20x40 foot mural, a celebration of diversity and the various disciplines within Wayne's Old Main building, will be installed on the Hancock and Second Street side of the Old Main Building behind the Elaine L. Jacobs Library.

**Department of Communication** - Professor Pradeep Sopory, department of communication, and Marc Kruman, history professor and director of Center for the Study of Citizenship, have been awarded \$198,892 by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to implement a deliberative democracy model to promote healthier behaviors in Detroit's HOPE Village neighborhood. Through the deliberative democracy model, residents will develop, implement and sustain solutions to health concerns in their community.

**In memory of David Magidson** - Professor David Magidson passed the week on December 10. Dr. David Magidson initially joined Wayne State University in 1991 as Dean of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. After seven years and a brief sabbatical, Dr. Magidson returned to Wayne State as a faculty member. He initially taught playwriting while serving as Dean – adding directing, PhD seminars and dramatic theory and criticism in 1998. He held a Ph.D. from the University of Utah and directed 100+ plays for many different theatre companies, including the Jewish Ensemble Theatre (JET), an Actors' Equity Association theatre at which he served as the artistic director for five years. Dr. Magidson also served as the director of Wayne State University's Center for Arts and Public Policy, and artistic director of the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival for 10 years.

### **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Shelly Jo Kraft, a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, [announced a major breakthrough in her research on the genetic basis of stuttering](#). Working

alongside colleagues from Vanderbilt University, Kraft reports the discovery of new genetic variations associated with the condition. They believe studies like these have the potential to "open the floodgates" in identifying therapeutic directions that could improve outcomes for people who stutter. The groundbreaking findings were detailed in two papers published in *The American Journal of Human Genetics* and *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances* last month.

[Anthropology students recently teamed up with the Museum of Contemporary Art \(Detroit\) to conduct an archeological dig](#) on a plot of land just adjacent to the Midtown Detroit museum. Students unearthed artifacts from the site of the demolished Parke Mansion. The public was invited to visit the dig site and [several local news outlets covered the project](#).

CLAS faculty Matthew Allen (Chemistry) and Lori Pile (Biological Sciences) have established Maximizing Access to Research Careers [MARC scholars - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences - Wayne State University](#). MARC is a dynamic scholarship program designed to build a cohort of research-oriented students from groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. MARC is designed for students interested in pursuing careers as biomedical scientists and plan to, or are willing to consider, Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. programs in the biomedical sciences after graduation.

Alongside faculty members, CLAS Dean Stephanie Hartwell launched the [#RunWithTheDean running event](#). Wayne State community members are welcome to join Dean Hartwell for a 5-mile run around the city. Runs take place on Fridays at 1 p.m. Keep an eye on the CLAS social media accounts for updates.

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

Associate Professor of Physical Therapy Nora Fritz was [awarded an NIH R01 grant](#) to examine early cognitive and motor changes in persons with multiple sclerosis. Her NIH R21 grant received a 13th percentile score and is awaiting council review for potential funding. Last fall, she was honored with the Richard E. Darnell Award from the American Physical Therapy Association of Michigan for her research contributions.

The WSU Applebaum Department of Pharmacy Practice had more than 25 publications in peer reviewed journals, with 14 abstracts presented at national meetings. The Nurse Anesthesia program became the first and only NA program in Michigan to formally transition from a paper to an electronic clinical evaluation tool. During the past quarter, faculty in Health Care Sciences have published seven manuscripts and presented the results of their research in eight different forums.

### **Honors College**

On October 27 and November 18, 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 October 27 panel was available to students as an in-person or live-streamed event, and welcomed Pamela Eshaki 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. The November 18 iDetroit panel featured Jamon Jordan, the City of Detroit's first official historian. Jordan has been serving residents and visitors for decades in his role as a public intellectual who

founded [Black Scroll Network](#) in 2013. Jordan's tours helped longtime residents, visitors and newcomers alike to understand the history of the city and the role Black and Indigenous people played in its development.

The Honors College was pleased to support a special exhibit that was installed in the atrium of the David Adamany Undergraduate Library in November called, "Black Bottom Street View Exhibit." Through the efforts of Honors faculty Dr. Kevin Deegan-Krause, the exhibit brought back the neighborhood considered by many to be the epicenter of African-American culture in Detroit. The entire neighborhood was demolished in the 1950's for the construction of the Chrysler Freeway. Before the demolition began, every structure was photographed, and the archive of more than 2,000 of the photos were recently discovered. The photos were arranged on large wooden panels built in a pattern of the original street grid, recreating the neighborhood. "Many of the students never knew Black Bottom existed," Deegan-Krause said. "They've been to that space, some of them dozens of times, they've driven right through it. And without this kind of exhibit, it's invisible."

The Irvin D. Reid Honors College hosted the first of three Honors Showcase events on January 26. These special recruiting events are designed to share the many benefits of being an Honors student at Wayne State University with prospective students, parents and guests. Honors-eligible admitted students for Fall 2022 are invited to attend one of the Honors Showcases, which are held virtually. The event includes a welcome and overview of Honors from Dean John Corvino, and then the dean moderates a panel of six current Honors students enrolled in diverse range of academic programs, who share their Honor experiences. This is followed by a Q&A session, with Honors faculty, advisors and staff on-hand to answer questions.

### **Law School**

Law school faculty and alumni continue to make an impact with their work and receive recognition for their accomplishments. Associate Professor Khaled Beydoun presented a keynote address at Facebook to more than 10,000 employees, staff and members of leadership on Islamophobia. Hon. Timothy P. Connors, an adjunct professor, was [awarded](#) the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award for Exemplary Service to Michigan's Families and Children. Alumna Dawn Ison was [nominated by President Joe Biden](#) to be the U.S. Attorney for Michigan's Eastern District, which would make her the first Black female picked for the job of chief federal law enforcement officer in Metro Detroit. Professor Katherine E. White, who is also is a Brigadier General in the U.S. Army National Guard currently serving as the Deputy Commander of the 46th Military Police Command in Lansing, was inducted into the Michigan Military and Veterans [Hall of Honor](#).

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

In December, the Mike Ilitch School of Business opened the application process for its 2022 ["25 Under 25"](#) recognition program. The program was created in 2017 to celebrate Ilitch School all-stars in academics, leadership, professional development and campus/community service. Applications are judged by a panel of executives from the SE Michigan business community. This year's winners will be announced in March.

In the lead up to the holiday season, a number of Ilitch School faculty members were cited in local and national media regarding ongoing supply chain and inventory challenges. Ilitch School Lecturer Kevin Ketels was quoted in an [Associated Press story](#) that was picked up by U.S. News & World Report, ABC News, WDIV, WSB-TV (Atlanta), New York Post,

Washington Times, The Miami Herald, Kansas City Star, Las Vegas Sun, Seattle PI, San Francisco Gate, St. Louis Post Dispatch, Star Tribune, Chron, Arizona Daily Star, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, NBC-Chicago and Anchorage Daily News. Other faculty members were featured prominently in Crain's Detroit Business.

On Nov. 15, the Ilitch School hosted its [41st Annual Recognition and Awards Program](#). At this event, the school honored the 2020 and 2021 recipients of its awards for Michigan Executive of the Year, Distinguished Alumni, Emerging Leader, Inspirational Teacher and Outstanding Student. This year's honorees included Strategic Staffing Solutions founder and CEO Cindy Pasky and late Ilitch School alum Marlowe Stoudamire, who received a posthumous Distinguished Alumni Award. Detroit television news legend Carmen Harlan served as the emcee.

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

Wayne State's student chapter of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) researched various user-centered digital preservation methods to help families preserve their digital photographs, emails, and social media. School of Information Sciences students, with direction from faculty advisor Kim Schroeder, developed a website resource to provide community members with the means to preserve their digital content in an accessible and cost-effective manner. Students Robert Browning, Ginny Schneider, Eric Morgel, Kendra Moyer presented the group's findings at the NDSA's [Digital Preservation Conference](#), co-moderated by Schroeder, on November 4.

SIS student (and December 2021 graduate) Kendra Moyer was featured in the special commencement edition of the Today @ Wayne newsletter. Moyer is an activist with deep ties to Wayne State. Her mother is a SIS alum who worked to protect library patrons' rights to privacy under the Patriot Act and her father was co-creator of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers and the first Black editor of Wayne State's student newspaper, The South End. As a student, Moyer worked with the Voices from the Grassroots project at WSU Law School's Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights to create a metadata library of terms related to Civil Rights activism in Detroit. She also worked with SIS Professor Kafi Kumasi to help bring urban school libraries back to life as a research assistant/web developer for Project RUSL: Restoring Urban School Libraries.

### **School of Medicine**

#### **Ranking**

- Announced USNWR positions Research (66 which was up from 71), Primary Care (89), badged in Most Diverse Medical School (26) and Areas of Physician Shortage
- Peer influencer communication campaign established

#### **Research and grants**

2022 NIH funding over \$77M including significant awards for

- \$15.88M to Department of Emergency Medicine to be the epicenter of a national study on viral infections that present in emergency departments across the county. Jeffrey Kline, M.D. (One of the dean's recruits), principal investigator, study includes emergency departments in 21 states and the District of Columbia, and 100 hospitals for surveillance of viral infections.
- \$7M to investigate the potential therapeutic effects of cannabis to reduce post-traumatic stress disorder and depression in veterans

- \$2.64M to four-year project, titled Linkage, Empowerment, and Access to Prevent Hypertension, or LEAP-HTN. Phillip Levy, M.D. principal investigator in American Heart Association funded study which will deploy Wayne Health Mobile Units to provide direct, personalized health care and coaching to African American residents with high blood pressure living in select under-resourced neighborhoods in Detroit
- \$2M grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for “Frontline Strong Together”, directed under Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences to support first responders and their families with training/services.

Blue Ridge Institute announced eight departments in the top 50 nationwide in National Institutes of Health research funding

- Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, and the Department of Ophthalmology, Visual and Anatomical Sciences are among the nation’s top 20 departments
- Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences ranks ninth in the nation (first in Michigan)
- Department of Ophthalmology, Visual and Anatomical Sciences ranks 11th nationally (second in Michigan)
- Department of Emergency Medicine ranks 28th nationwide (second in Michigan)

#### **Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Enrollment**

- Class of 2021 exceeded prior year application goals (10,300) with a strong yield, and increased URM focus and applications including African American students; largest M1 class start
- Students hail from 34 states and 2 Canadian provinces

#### **Graduate Medical Education (GME) Match**

- 2021 Match at 99%, highest ever

**Curriculum and program innovation** to aid students in personalizing their degree, create greater degree value and expand leadership skills

- New scholarly concentrations for current students including research, business of healthcare and others
- Announced the only Three-year M.D. in Michigan to begin in July 2022
- Announced an expanded dual degree offering with new concurrent M.D./M.B.A and M.D./M.P.H. to begin July 2022

#### **Launched new and innovative initiatives**

- Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases established. Based on the strength of COVID-19 clinical work, research and community engagements, center will offer services to local, national and international efforts in emerging infectious diseases.
- Frontline Strong Together funded by \$2M MDHHS grant supports training and support services for first responders and families.

### **School of Social Work**

The Social Work Student Alliance partnered with FEMA to provide assistance to over 600 Detroiters affected by the June flooding and storms. With support from the United Way, a group of ten students wrapped-up the project on December 1<sup>st</sup> having completed needs assessments and referrals for FEMA support.

Assistant Professor Lisa A. O'Donnell, Doctoral Student Kathy Szechy and UM colleagues were recipients of the 2021 Council on Social Work Education Disability Manuscript Award for their submission titled, "Public Attitudes Towards Individuals With Bipolar Disorders."

Associate Professor Tam Perry, the first non-physician investigator to win the National Hemophilia Foundation's (NHF) Innovative Investigator Research Award, has been named a 2021-22 Resident Scholar by the Wayne State Humanities Center. Perry's residency will allow her to further develop analysis, presentations and publications for her NHF funded project "Navigating Time and Space: Experiences of Aging and Hemophilia" otherwise known as "Project Survivor".

Associate Professor Carolyn Dayton received a Fatherhood Advocate Award from CONNECTIONS: Wayne County Systems of Care – Systems in Action for Children, Youth and Families. Dayton received the award for her extensive research focused on early parenting processes, particularly on fathering in urban settings; active engagement in policy initiatives aimed at revising state and local policies that negatively affect poor, urban fathers; and her dynamic co-leadership of the Metro Detroit Fatherhood Policy Committee.

Social Work has partnered with the non-profit Family Assistance for Renaissance Men (FARM) on a \$400,000, two-year grant to empower Detroit fathers to enhance their parenting, find employment and support their families. FARM is a Detroit-based nonprofit that works to strengthen families by teaching men the principals of fatherhood and building employment skills. Associate Professor Carolyn Dayton served and directed FARM's data collection and program evaluation efforts for several years and will continue providing data support for the grant's Family Intervention Model.

### **Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement** **Student Success - Academic Success Center (ASC)**

The ASC, along with the Office of Student Success Operational Excellence, the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement and the Dean of Students Office, hosted a mid-December calling campaign to reach out to first-year students. Faculty, staff and administrators from across the university joined President Wilson and Provost Kornbluh to phone over 2,000 students to ask how they are doing and connect them with resources, if needed.

### **Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA)**

- OSFA has distributed more than \$26.6 million in Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III monies (known as WSU CARES III), federal funds intended to assist students with educational costs such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), childcare or emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. The team expects to distribute about \$28.6 in total for student grants.
- Financial aid disbursements to students at all levels total more than \$155 million in Fall 2021. Winter 2022 portions were disbursed at the beginning of January.

### **Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) and Tutor Training Academy (TTA)**

- The PAL Program is partnering with the First Year Residential Experience (FYRE) Learning Community by providing a designated tutor at Chatsworth Suites for in-person drop-in tutoring to provide support for students where they live.
- The Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program is working closely with faculty teaching high- enrollment and historically challenging courses to strategically embed support for students in those classes during winter.
- The TTA is developing and delivering training for undergraduate student assistants in the Rising Scholars and Emerging Scholars programs and is supporting the chemical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science departments with training and support for embedded tutors.

### **Enrollment Management (EM)**

EM is involved in a campus-wide collaborative Registration Rally to help coordinate and host a series of registration efforts for all students. Working in tandem with Student Success, the Rally offers a series of action-oriented initiatives to help students get registered for the upcoming semester. This multi-pronged approach includes 1:1 outreach, call campaigns, text/email campaigns and a two-part in-person programming series. Events were scheduled for mid-December and early January.

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

- OIP hosted the first Collaborative International Learning Experience Conference for 80 students and faculty from the University of Applied Sciences Ruhr West and Harz University of Applied Sciences, both in Germany, and Iowa State University. The collaboration is sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The four institutions have been partnering on virtual collaborative projects during the pandemic and met face-to-face for the first time on Wayne State's campus during International Education Week in November. The conference focused on cross-cultural competencies and teaching cross-cultural teams in project-based learning. The students followed a track that examined the history and current events of Detroit within a global context and participated in practical sessions about networking and leadership. Faculty teams refined their projects and will continue to work together in the new year through virtual exchange courses.
- For the third consecutive year, the U.S. Department of State has selected Wayne State University as the sole provider for Fulbright Gateway Orientation. Fulbright, the U.S. government's flagship exchange program, provides U.S. citizens with grants to study, teach and conduct research abroad and for non-U.S. citizens to come to the United States to do the same. OIP will manage the virtual orientation for 1,500 foreign



grantees coming to the U.S. for the 2022-23 academic year. This is the fifth time WSU has been a host, with the first two years providing orientation in-person on our campus.

- Recent recruiting activities include:
  - Partnering with the Office of Housing and Residential Life, the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) and Career Services to host a virtual information session for prospective students from India, and working with the College of Engineering to host an information session for prospective students from India;
  - Collaborating with OISS and Graduate Admissions to host a webinar for admitted international students to talk about the I-20 process and next steps in the enrollment process; and
  - Participated in a wide variety of virtual recruitment events, speaking with students in regions such as Central Asia, Eurasia, and Asia.

A new survey has been developed collaboratively among many areas of the university to support WSU accreditation. It is expected to pilot this Winter, capturing student experiences at the university, use of services, and needs over the course of their educational experience at Wayne State. It is called the Survey of Warrior Educational Engagement and Transformation and reflects two years of input and collaboration throughout the university.

The General Education Program has developed a new website (<https://wayne.edu/engaging-gened>) with support resources for students, faculty, and advisors. The website will be announced to the campus community in the winter semester.

The General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) received reports from last year's assessment of Civic Literacy, Natural Scientific Inquiry, and Wayne Experience courses as part of ongoing Gen Ed Program assessment. Data submitted by instructors in individual courses suggests that 75%-83% of students met or exceeded targeted learning goals. The GEOC and the Assessment Subcommittee will be working with instructors and departments to reflect on assessment results and identify faculty development and student support needs as part of continuing program improvement to ensure that we are supporting student learning. The GEOC has undergone an extensive revision of the learning outcomes and rubrics for the assessment of Basic Composition, Intermediate Composition, and Oral Communication courses, in consultation with instructors and students, as part of ongoing program reflection and improvement. These rubrics will be live-piloted in the winter term.

### **FACULTY AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Office of Faculty Affairs and Development supplemented August's hybrid New Faculty Orientation experience throughout the semester with four virtual sessions for new faculty focusing on aspects of WSU that were less time-sensitive than what was covered at the beginning of the semester. The supplemental virtual sessions had 47 attendees. Our regular programming for the fall semester included three panels and one webinar, attended by 67 members of faculty, academic staff, and administrators; topics ranged from parenthood on the tenure track to planning a successful sabbatical. We sent four newsletters with an average open rate of 3,750 readers and had strong engagement on Twitter, with average monthly impressions of over 5,000. Chair Chats continued to be held each month with an average attendance of 25 chairs, covering issues like DEI, fellowships, and important features in the new AAUP contract.

The [Academic Leadership Academy](#) began its third year with a cohort of 11 faculty and academic staff; to date, they have attended four monthly meetings and an inaugural retreat. Their projects have a diverse focus, from recruitment and retention to the neurological effects of COVID-19, and we are very excited to help them continue their leadership journey.

We soft-launched the [Writing Warriors](#) writing accountability group app with cooperation from C&IT in November and will prepare a full launch for January. Writing Accountability Groups (WAGs) are small groups of scholars who support each other's writing and scholarly goals. WAGs work by creating accountability for writing, enhancing a sense of belonging, and improving motivation. The [Writing Warriors app](#) makes organizing a WAG easy and virtual and has personal and external accountability tools.