

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

College of Education

The college received two Child Care Stabilization grants from the Michigan Department of Education. The College of Education Early Childhood Center received \$69,915, and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute Early Childhood Center was awarded \$99,800. Funds — which are for the performance period of Jan. 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023 — will be used to support staffing, protective equipment, supplies, and classroom materials. In addition, awards include bonus payments for full-time and part-time childcare staff in recognition of their commitment and sacrifice throughout the pandemic. Anna Miller, lecturer of early childhood education and executive director of both centers, is the principal investigator.

April Hines-Jenkins, a doctoral student in educational studies and school leader at Cesar Chavez Academy Middle School in Detroit, discussed her efforts to increase interest and participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) among underrepresented students and the importance of changing how and when STEM is introduced. <https://gradschool.wayne.edu/news/improving-stem-learning-for-underrepresented-students-46855>

Alumnus Chuck Simms (BA '96, MEd '15) was named interim fire commissioner of the Detroit Fire Department. He has worked for DFD for 35 years, serving in several positions, including firefighter, fire investigator lieutenant, fire investigator captain, chief of arson and fire investigations, and second deputy fire commissioner. A Detroit native, Simms is a two-time graduate of Wayne State, having earned a bachelor's in psychology (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) and a master's in education with a major in educational psychology from the College of Education. <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2022/01/18/detroit-mayor-appoints-interim-fire-commissioner-amid-nationwide-search/6563987001/>

College of Engineering

Murat Yildirim, assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering, and his collaborators are working on a new approach to optimize production and maintenance in wind farms. WSU and Rutgers University received \$450,000 from the National Science Foundation for a project titled "Generation versus Degradation: Striking the optimal balance for wind farm profitability via digitization, predictive and prescriptive analytics." The project aims to facilitate industrial application of this research to aid in meeting the Department of Energy's target of 35% of the country's energy to be sourced from wind by 2050.

AVL, the world's largest independent company for development, simulation and testing in the automotive industry, announced it is expanding its University Partnership Program with Wayne State University to empower the next generation of engineers. As part of the expansion, multiple departments in the College of Engineering will receive licensed access to AVL's full portfolio of cutting-edge simulation software toolchains. This partnership allows the college to integrate these technologies into its curriculum and provide even greater

learning experiences with real-world applications, including batteries, fuel cells and controls development.

Sorin Draghici, professor of computer science, was elected an IEEE Fellow, an accolade reserved for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers members whose extraordinary accomplishments in their fields are deemed worthy. Draghici was recognized for contributions to the analysis of high-throughput genomics and proteomics data. He leads the Intelligent Systems and Bioinformatics Laboratory at Wayne State and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the WSU School of Medicine. He has published two best-selling books, eight book chapters, and more than 160 peer-reviewed journal and conference papers.

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

The Department of Communication launched its fully online M.A. in Public Relations and Strategic Communication. This program is a professional degree that emphasizes the theory and application of communication in a variety of contexts. These include working in public relations, employee relations, media relations, public affairs, issue and crisis management, technical and employee communication, and related activities in business, industry, non-profit, and governmental settings.

Dr. Stephanie Tong, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, received the Research Cultivation Grant from the National Communication Association for a project entitled *How Do People Process Racial Hate Speech on Social Media? Examining Pandemic-Related Anti-Asian Rhetoric on Twitter*. This research project examines Americans' interpretation of anti-Asian online hate speech in the current context of COVID-19. In addition to advancing communication theory and providing deeper insights into contemporary understandings of racism, the results of this research are poised to offer important practical insights that can stimulate positive social change.

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art & Art History students put the final touches on the 18' x 36' mural that they have painted for the outside of Old Main titled "Interactive Hands". The students were given a thematic prompt by a review committee headed by Grace Serra, Director of the WSU Art Collection. This represents the diversity of the WSU student population and the variety of courses studied within the walls of Old Main.

The Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance had a very successful first show of 2022. This production brought Dance B.F.A. Capstone students to the stage with "Marking Our Mark." All work was choreographed by this year's graduating BFA seniors. The show highlighted each choreographer's individual style, making for an entertaining and experimental experience. Beauty, grace, humor, theatricality, and film were all fused together to create an immersive and engaging show.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

In January, U.S. News and World Report ranked Wayne State's **Online Master's in Criminal Justice** among the best in the state and the nation for 2022. U.S. News evaluated master's degree programs in criminal justice and criminology using five categories including: engagement, faculty credentials and training, services and technologies, expert opinion and student excellence. We're thrilled that our Department of Criminal Justice continues to set the standard for renowned and flexible graduate education.

The NEH recently granted **Department of Anthropology Chair Dr. Krysta Ryzewski** more than \$74,000 to pursue her [groundbreaking Hamtramck Historic Spatial Archaeology Project](#). The project, a collaboration with Michigan Tech University, will be among the *first* attempts to link archival, archaeological, and geospatial data across time and space.

Our students continue to change the world for the better and advocate for a healthier Michigan. Graduate biochemistry student **Katie Dwyer**, who also serves as vice president of Science Policy Network-Detroit (SciPol-Detroit), recently [penned a compelling op/ed in the Detroit News](#) detailing the widespread issue of lead exposure in Michigan children. Katie shares that she recently held a panel that brought together local experts, community voices and lawmakers to discuss the impact of lead on Detroit children and science-based solutions. We're proud to call Katie a CLAS Warrior and can't wait to see what she does next.

Kalimah Johnson, an M.A. student in English, recently received the [Warrior of Distinction Student Award from the President's Commission on the Status of Women](#). In addition to being a tremendous student, Kalimah is the founder of the nonprofit SASHA Center (Sexual Assault Services for Holistic Healing and Awareness). Through the SASHA Center, she works to educate the public about sexual assault, raise awareness about this important issue, and provide support to survivors of sexual violence, especially African American women. We're constantly in awe of our amazing CLAS Warriors and Kalimah is no exception.

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

Postdoctoral scholar Sara Alosaimy won the national Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists Paper of the Year for work done in WSU Applebaum's Anti-Infective Research Laboratory, directed by Professor Michael Rybak.

The postgraduate year two (PGY2) Infectious Diseases residency at Henry Ford Health System – founded by Professor Susan Davis and with Assistant Clinical Professor Mike Veve as key preceptor – is the recipient of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation 2021 Residency Program Excellence Award.

WSU Applebaum graduated 103 students in Dec. 2021; 888 students are registered for winter 2022 as of Feb. 3, 2022. The Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2021 had a first-time board exam pass rate of 97.1%, scoring higher than both the national mean and Michigan program mean in every aspect of the exam.

Graduate School

The Graduate School's Professional Development Series continues in 2022, with nine events focusing on the pillars of research preparation, career advancement, and financial literacy. While targeted to graduate students, these events also provide value to undergraduate students, prospective graduate students, faculty, and staff. Registration and attendance numbers have doubled each semester since Winter 2020; January's *How to Interview* event featured nearly 250 registrations.

The 2022 Graduate Research Symposium concluded March 10 and featured the work of 180 postdoc and graduate student researchers. This year also featured presentations from researchers at partner institutions including the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Oakland University. As the Symposium's popularity grows and extends across

the state, the Graduate School hopes this event will become the Midwest United States' premier research event. Final attendee numbers and demographics from this year's event are still being tallied and will be shared at a future Board of Governors meeting.

Honors College

The Irvin D. Reid Honors College designated the month of January as "Life Skills Month." The idea was to take advantage of the new year and the remote month, using the forced change of scenery as fuel for a change of mindset: forming positive habits for school, career, and life. Dean Corvino shared daily tips on Canvas with Honors students. Throughout the month, life skills topics included: time management, the power of language, failing productively, mindfulness and meditation, planning for career, time blocking, recognizing your quicksand, grace vs. complacency, the power of positive disruption, and others. Student shared their own strategies and challenges through these engaged Canvas posts.

In January, calls went out to Honors students to serve as production interns for the upcoming Honors College fundraising showcase, currently called "Zoom to the Finish III." These YouTube watch parties not only raise funding for the college, but the showcase the amazing work of students and faculty. Interested students are applying for these paid internships in areas of video production and editing, marketing, writing, and other skills. The final project will premiere on YouTube on Giving Day (April 7).

Law School

In early January, Wayne Law lost [Professor Peter Henning](#), who passed away after a battle with an aggressive form of frontotemporal dementia. Professor Henning was an inspirational mentor, teacher, and friend. In memory of Professor Henning and in honor of his contributions to Wayne State University Law School's moot court program, the moot court program's annual fall in-house competition will be renamed the Peter J. Henning Criminal Law In-House Competition started with the Fall 2022 competition.

The law school continues to lead and to receive accolades for its programs at the intersection of social justice and community engagement. In January, the White House and the Department of Justice invited Assistant Professor (Clinical) and Director of Externships Daniel Ellman to discuss the [Warrior Eviction Defense Corps](#)—Wayne Law's response to the [Attorney General's Call to Action to the Legal Profession](#) to address the housing and eviction crisis—at an event they were hosting to discuss law school eviction prevention efforts. Ellman was selected to present the Corps during a panel as part of the event, and Wayne Law was one of the highlighted programs in the [White House's Fact Sheet](#).

The law school also helped the American Bar Association (ABA) break new ground in the area of police reform. Second-year law students Dominica Convertino and Kawkab El-Moussaoui are serving as 2 of only 38 inaugural nationwide Fellows with the ABA's [Legal Education Police Practices Consortium](#) during the Winter 2022 semester. As a co-founder of the Consortium, Wayne Law committed to supporting its work in contributing to the national effort examining and addressing legal issues in policing and public safety, including conduct, oversight, and the evolving nature of police work.

Wayne Law graduates continue to excel in the job market. According to the most recent American Bar Association employment data, more than 91% of the 2021 Wayne Law class are employed in full-time, long-term jobs that require bar passage or for which a J.D. is an

advantage. This number shows an improvement from the class of 2020, which already ranked Wayne Law as No. 47 in the country according to an analysis of the American Bar Association's 2020 employment data.

Mike Ilitch School of Business

The Ilitch School is proud to partner with the WSU School of Medicine on a new joint degree program in which medical students can earn an M.B.A. concurrently with their four-year medical degree. The curriculum will provide students with core courses in both medicine and business, as well as supporting elective courses in each field, and specialized courses in both. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be prepared for employment as physicians and in a wide range of additional settings in the public and private sector. Approved by the Board of Governors at their January meeting, the M.D./M.B.A. joins the Ilitch School's existing M.B.A. concentration [in healthcare supply chain](#) in addressing the ever-growing need for business-minded professionals in the medical fields.

On February 2, the school hosted a live, virtual event featuring Detroit native and Cass Tech alumna Rosalind (Roz) Brewer, CEO, Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc., and moderated by Pamela J. Moore ('94, M.B.A. '00) president and CEO, Detroit Public Schools Foundation. Brewer is currently ranked #6 on Fortune's 50 Most Powerful Women in Business. She and Moore discussed lessons learned throughout her distinguished academic and professional career. The event was part of the Ilitch School's Dean's Executive Speaker Series, which was launched in January 2021. A recording has been posted on the [Wayne State University YouTube channel](#).

The Wayne State University Chapter of Net Impact, an Ilitch School student organization, has been selected as a finalist for the Net Impact Chapter of the Year for 2020-21. The WSU chapter was recognized for going above and beyond in activities, member engagement and more from July 2020 to June 2021. Net Impact is an international nonprofit organization with more than 400 chapters worldwide. Its members are dedicated to using business as a force to create positive impact on society. The WSU chapter's mission is to connect undergraduate and graduate students to make a difference on campus, in the community and around the world.

School of Information Sciences (SIS)

The article "The Fabric of Detroit: Uncovering Public Art" was featured in the university's Today@Wayne and Get Involved e-newsletters. The story is about SIS student Cameron Socha, who under the direction of Associate Professor Joan Beaudoin, completed a directed study course that aimed to photograph, catalog and map murals in the city of Detroit. Cameron has also been asked to perform a social media takeover on behalf of the university, which provides a great opportunity for SIS to showcase the surprising and unique projects offered within our programs.

SIS recently signed a contract with the Hustle texting platform. SIS representatives will use the platform to introduce a new way of contacting and engaging with current and prospective students, alumni and donors. Campaigns will include texts to notify students about scholarship and registration deadlines; outreach to encourage prospective students to complete the application process; Giving Day and other appeals for donations and more.

Recent SIS alumna Kendra Moyer, an activist with deep ties to Wayne State, was featured on the wayne.edu homepage in recognition of Black history Month. Moyer was previously

featured in social media posts and Today@Wayne as part of the university's commencement communications. Moyer's 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.

School of Medicine

The Wayne State University School of Medicine is very proud to announce the creation of the Three-Year MD program. While there are over 20 similar programs in the country, ours is the first in the state of Michigan and one of the only in the country to offer training in residency programs beyond primary care specialties. Prior to matriculation at the WSUSOM, accepted students will interview with their desired residency program and offered conditional acceptance into the residency program. Mentorship from the residency program will begin the day the student enters medical school and will continue throughout the three years. This program meets all requirements of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the accrediting body of all US medical schools, and students will receive their MD at the end of three years allowing them to begin their training and enter the work force a year earlier. Given the attractiveness of this option to potential students, it allows us to attract applicants of the highest caliber to our medical school and ensures that these students provide care in metro Detroit upon graduation, providing a great service to the community which we serve.

The Wayne State University School of Medicine has introduced a new joint degree program in which medical students can earn a master's of business administration degree concurrently with their four-year medical degree. The program is a partnership between the WSU School of Medicine and WSU's Mike Ilitch School of Business. Several M.D.-M.B.A. programs already exist at other medical schools, but the majority are five-year programs, which require medical students to pull out of their medical education programs for a year, delaying graduation and the start of residency programs. WSU allows students to complete both degrees in four years. The Association of American Medical Colleges reports that students who select an M.D.-M.B.A. program often develop careers in medicine with clinical and administrative responsibilities. The M.B.A. coursework prepares them to administer clinics and medical centers, manage health care organizations, and become more effective advocates for patients while striving to improve the health care system.

School of Social Work

Assistant Professor, Teaching and Director of Continuing Education Shantalea Johns was selected to be part of the CSWE cohort of Scholars in Global and Intercultural Competence in recognition of her innovation in education to introduce social work students to the wealth of international perspectives on social problems and imaginative solutions in the context of cultural diversity and complex social and economic justice issues.

Associate Professor of Teaching Judith Wineman and her husband Dr. Kim Schopmeyer initiated the Wineman/Schopmeyer Family Endowed Student Support Fund to fuel the critical work of the social work student organizations. This gift is the first of kind for the School of Social Work which focuses solely on the work of student organizations and the recently formed Social Work Student Alliance, an umbrella organization supporting student activities and outreach.

Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement **Undergraduate Admissions**

In mid-February, applications and admissions both were up 5% for FTIACS, with 44% of those students using the test-optional application. Transfer applications submitted were up 4%.

To encourage admitted students to enroll, Admissions launched a yield campaign including email and postal mail communications, and created a new digital marketing yield campaign with targeted digital ads.

Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA)

OSFA has awarded \$27,241,100 in WSU CARES III student grants to 12,677 students to assist with educational costs such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), child care or emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. The Office of the University Bursar has spent more than \$5.6 million of the \$28 million to pay balances for over 1,700 students.

Office of International Programs (OIP)

For the second year in a row, Wayne State University has been selected as an Institute Partner for the 2022 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Beginning in mid-June, the university will host 25 of Africa's bright, emerging public management leaders for a six-week leadership institute sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The [Mandela Washington Fellowship](#), the flagship program of the [Young African Leaders Initiative](#) (YALI), empowers young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities and local community engagement. YALI supports young Africans as they spur economic growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. The Wayne State program is managed by OIP.

Spring recruitment is well underway, with OIP participating in virtual recruitment events to connect with students in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Colombia and Brazil, as well as broader regions such as the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia. The university was featured in a webinar hosted by Sannam4 for prospective students in India, and OIP is collaborating with the College of Engineering to be featured in Facebook/Instagram live talks hosted by [HSM-INACE](#) in India in the coming months.

Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC)

The TSSC has created Henry Ford Fridays, virtual advising events for the college with a specific focus for each session. Topics include general advising, transferring into pre-health programs, and adult transfer students. Virtual and in-person advising is offered weekly at Schoolcraft and Oakland Community College, and a virtual advising session was offered at Grand Rapids Community College.

The TSSC is streamlining the transition for transfer students by expediting transfer credit evaluation once a student is admitted and implementing a new self-service transfer credit equivalency system for prospective students to help clarify which courses will be accepted.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)

UROP provides undergraduate students with opportunities to work with faculty on research and creative projects. 27 undergraduate students have been accepted and will be funded by UROP to present research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April,

and 12 students have been accepted to and will be funded to present research at other conferences. The program hosted the virtual Conference for Undergraduate Research and Creative Work in March, and will fund 28 undergraduate students and 28 faculty mentors for the Winter-Spring/Summer 2022 award cycle.

COMPUTING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Laptop Lockers in STEM - C&IT coordinated with FP&M, University Libraries and DOSO to install laptop checkout lockers, and the first of those lockers are now available in STEM. Students can use their One Card to checkout a laptop to use at the automated vending lockers, much like they do already to checkout books. We have seen how the pandemic can create equity issues around tech accessibility, and this is another example of how Wayne State has taken innovative steps to meet this challenge, which also includes programs like the Warrior Laptop Program through our great partners at the Dean of Students Office. The lockers will be a component of our continued tech accessibility focus for our campus.

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Course Development

In response to a growing desire to explore issues of leadership and social justice issues amongst women of color, Kristin Johnston (Academic Advisor for OMSE) developed the Womxn of Color: Social Activism and Power course (GSW 3100) in partnership with Gender, Sexuality, and Women's studies. The course ran at 60% capacity its first semester being offered (18 of 30 seats were filled). This course was also tied to the RISE learning community (a learning community for self-identified women of color) to offer additional social connections and belonging opportunities outside of the course.

Community Partnerships: Men of Courage Grant

In partnership with Government and Community Relations, The Network Learning Community (a learning community for self-identified African American males) secured a one-time grant from the Ford Foundation of \$15,000 to hold a large-scale-campus event designed to meet the needs of African American men at WSU and in the surrounding community. This event has been postponed due to COVID and campus restrictions; however, there is hope this event can be organized soon. The Network LC was awarded a certificate of excellence—bronze award—for 2021-2022 learning community of the year.

LGBTQ+ Initiatives

Students have made clear their desire for strategic outreach and efforts aimed at serving the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. OMSE has worked to identify and update the gender neutral/inclusive restroom map, created a student-led LGBTQ+ Planning Committee comprised of student leaders from across campus, and participated in the Campus Pride Index (a national assessment tool) to capture institutional data on how WSU can be a more LGBTQ+ friendly campus. WSU currently holds an overall Campus Pride score of 68% which equals 3.5 stars out of 5 stars. This score demonstrates a growth opportunity for strengthening our outreach and campus culture.