

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### **College of Engineering**

Marco Brocanelli, assistant professor of computer science, is working toward a solution to enhance the energy efficiency of mobile augmented reality (MAR) apps with a project that was granted a five-year, \$576,099 NSF CAREER award, the organization's most prestigious accolade for up-and-coming researchers. MAR apps use tablet and smartphone cameras, as well as artificial intelligence, to create an interactive augmented user experience. The proposed research has the potential to accelerate the growth of the MAR market, which is already expected to reach \$185 billion by 2030 and shows promise to enhance health care, retail, entertainment, tourism, and a host of other industries.

A group of Wayne State professors, students and facility management team members has advanced to the implementation phase of the DTE E-Challenge 5, which includes project funding and student scholarships. Their project aims to reduce energy waste in commercial and industrial buildings by using artificial intelligence to learn occupants' behavior, predict their activity and patterns in a building, and adjust the HVAC usage accordingly. The David Adamany Undergraduate Library is scheduled to be the demonstration site. Masoud Nazari, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, is the project's principal investigator.

An interdisciplinary team of students from Wayne State University and the University of Detroit Mercy took first place in a sustainability pitch competition, hosted virtually in early February by WSU and the Erb Family Foundation. The trio of Knicko Mojica, a junior civil engineering student at Wayne State; Lilly Solomon, a senior studying political science and romance languages at WSU; and Alexander Kalaj, a first-year student at UDM, received a \$2,500 prize as well as a MoGo gift card. They were among 50 applicants from the two institutions and Lawrence Technological University chosen to participate.

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

The Graduate Research Symposium (GRS) is the Graduate School's signature event dedicated to the research achievements of Wayne State's Ph.D. students and postdoc community. The 2022 GRS took place on March 8 - 10 and included topics on COVID-19, urban social disparities, the climate crisis, and more. The event featured the varied research of graduate students and postdocs from Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Oakland University. 1,325 people from 20 U.S. states, 30 countries, and 156 universities around the world attended the 2022 GRS.

Students from the College of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts did very well. Department of Communication Master's student Fatooma Saad (Impact of family-related policy implementation on retention-related decisions among military) and doctoral candidate Khairul Islam (Social-mediated communication during water service disruptions) were recognized for outstanding platform presentations. Department of Music Master's students Timiesha Knowles (From De Shank to De Whine: The musical reflections of political and sexual ideologies) and Maritza Garibay (Pauline's disciples: The continuing reverberations of

Oliveros's deep listening practice) both placed during the symposium. Knowles was named the Ultimate Platform Winner, for the best research presentation by a Wayne State University researcher in the entire three-day symposium!

The Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance debuted “Suspended Reality | Almost a Dream,” a hybrid experience of both live dance and projected media where students process the return to in-person learning, and share vulnerable glimpses into moments, memories, and meanings of their own experiences. This performance was included in the department’s Virtual Dance Collaboratory concert.

The James Pearson Duffy Department of Art & Art History presented “INBODY EMBODIED,” an exhibition that featured artworks by graduating WSU MFA students who practice in a variety of disciplines and approaches. *INBODY EMBODIED* interpreted visual language through personal narratives that encompass and deconstruct the human figure. Carefully and uniquely crafted by each artist, the exhibition moves from abstraction to surrealism to share a conceptual framework that addresses the body as a symbol for relationships, emotions, social practices and behaviors, and cultural identities.

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

Psychology Professor [Samuele Zilioli](#) was awarded an NIH grant to study children with asthma. The project will investigate the relationship between psychosocial experiences and health in children affected by asthma and their asymptomatic siblings. The goal is to dissect the role of different cell types, disease status versus psychosocial environment, and genetic variation in transcriptional dysregulation observed in children with asthma living in risky family environments. Dr. Zilioli will work alongside Drs. Francesca Luca and Roger Pique-Regi from the WSU School of Medicine.

Wayne State Department of Anthropology Chair Dr. Krysta Ryzewski received more than \$74,000 in NEH funding for the [Hamtramck Historic Spatial Archaeology Project](#). This project will be among the first attempts to link archival, archaeological, and geospatial data across time and space. The HSDI will be designed to remedy disconnections between historical and archaeological data sets.

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

Twenty-six PharmD students and alumni matched with pharmacy residency programs in phase 1 of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) national match. This is a very high 84% match rate. Our students will be serving in highly respected programs around the country (e.g., Stanford, MUSC), and 10 will be staying in programs within the City of Detroit.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program had a 100% graduation rate, and a first-time board exam pass rate was 97%. All areas of the board exam results were above the national average, and 9.4% higher than the average for Michigan PT Schools. They continue to provide pro bono services to the Detroit community at the SAY PT Clinic, both through telehealth and now back in person. In the first month back in person, they served 16 patients and scheduled 24 future appointments.

Dr. Nora Fritz was awarded a Mentored Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rehabilitation Research from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, providing her with 5 years of funding to train postdoctoral fellows in multiple sclerosis rehabilitation research.

The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program attained a clinical rotation at Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital (a critical access hospital) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A PY III NA student started this unique rotation on March 1, 2022 and became the first ever Wayne State Warrior to rotate to this rural hospital.

The Pathologists' Assistant program increased its class size to 16 students for the Spring/Summer semester (9 in-state and 7 out-of-state students). The Clinical Laboratory Science program partnered with the Physician Assistant Studies program in an interprofessional education (IPE) experience involving point-of-care testing.

### **Graduate School**

The Graduate School hosted its annual Graduate Research Symposium, March 8 – 10, with an audience of more than 1,300 attendees from around the world. This was the second year in a row that the Symposium was entirely virtual, with attendees using an online event platform to watch sessions, network with attendees, and ask questions about Wayne State and its various graduate programs. In total, attendees joined from 156 universities around the world in 30 countries across five continents, making this the most successful Symposium to date. Additionally, the Symposium led to nearly 100 registrations for the Graduate School's spring information session, showing that it is a legitimate prospecting tool for graduate programs at Wayne State.

### **Irvin D. Reid Honors College**

As part of a continuing series for students, "Honors Authors," a special event developed to showcase the recent publications by Honors faculty, featured Honors faculty Dr. Bryan Ellis. This installment of the series was held on March 30 in the Community Room of the UGL and showcased Dr. Ellis's recently published book, *Understanding Diversity: An Introduction*.

On April 7, the Irvin D. Reid Honors College hosted "Zoom to the Finish 3: Honors Unmasked," the third Zoom to the Finish fundraiser watch party that celebrates Honors students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The event raises funds for the Finish Line Fund, a fund specially created to help Honors seniors in their final year of studies. This year's ZTF event utilized four Honors students who served as interns in helping to write, create and produce the event. ZTF3 was streamed live at 6pm and featured Honors dean John Corvino as master of ceremonies, and a host of Honors students sharing their amazing talents and stories. The event was repeated at 9pm for alumni and donors in the western time zones.

The Honors College produced the annual Arthur L. Johnson Urban Perspectives Series event on April 13 in the Bernath Auditorium, with support from the Alumni Association. This year's event focused on the I.Detroit Human Atlas Project, and Honors faculty members, Dr. Beth Fowler and Dr. Bryan Ellis, assembled a panel of participants. The project was created and produced by British artist Marcus Lyon. The project mapped 100 Detroiters through photographic portraits, app-based image-activated oral histories and ancestral DNA to create a deeper understanding of the city. *Human Atlas* projects endeavor to hold a mirror up to society and encourage audiences to question their own roles and responsibilities to their

communities, cities, and fellow human beings. Dean John Corvino moderated the panel discussion, and the event was lived streamed.

### **Law School**

The Law School continues its upward trajectory in 2022. Since our last report, *U.S. News & World Report* has released the 2023 Best Law School rankings. Wayne Law has jumped 42 spots in the rankings over the last five years — to No. 58 in the country, a historic best this year, and again the second-highest ranked law school in Michigan. Wayne Law also ranked No. 17 in part-time law programs, the best in the state, and No. 35 in the clinical training specialty ranking, an acknowledgement of our continued commitment and growth in hands-on experiences for our students.

Enrollment in our non-J.D. programs continues to exceed our expectations. Our Master of Studies in Law (MSL) program with a human resources focus has grown to 38 students after only three admission cycles. Our inaugural MSL class is expected to complete the program in December 2022. Over 245 students have formally declared the interdisciplinary Minor in Law (MIL) through our partner schools/colleges. And our LL.M. program enrollment continues to climb with changes to our marketing and recruitment processes and the opening of travel for international students.

Our Holistic Defense Externship, a partnership between Wayne Law and the Wayne State School of Social Work, has received increased interest from students. As one of only two programs in the nation, the externship has received 25 applications in its second year (up from 5 applications in its first year). According to a recent participating student, “this externship allowed me the chance to work with potential future employers from a new and unique perspective. Working with Social Work students on a holistic team gave me a new perspective and a unique edge when interviewing after graduation.” To deepen the experience for law students, the program added a course that involves a detailed study of enmeshed consequences, the interrelation between various legal systems (e.g., criminal, immigration, family, housing, and employment), and how practitioners in these various legal fields collaborate to provide comprehensive representation to clients.

In early March, a group of Wayne Law students launched a month-long “Lawyers Look Like Me” campaign, an initiative that aims to challenge stereotypes about what lawyers look like and celebrate historically underrepresented law students. The student-run Wayne Law Diversity Coalition (WLDC) organized the campaign with the support of the Student Affairs’ and Dean’s offices. The students sold “Lawyers Look Like Me” t-shirts and plan to direct the proceeds to support WLDC student projects. The campaign caught the attention of local news and garnered donations from major Michigan law firms.

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

The Ilitch School climbed 19 spots to 139 in the 2023 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for part-time M.B.A. programs. The school has climbed 36 spots in the past two years. The Ilitch School now has the second highest peer score (2.5) in the state behind only UM’s Ross School of Business. Both M.B.A. and undergraduate rankings are the highest they have been since at least 2015. Full rankings are available on the [U.S. News website](#).

The Ilitch School and the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) have jointly developed Tomorrow’s Leaders Today, an interactive, executive-level development program that

centers on cutting-edge business leadership with an emphasis on supply chain strategy, tactics, and tools. The program is designed for organizations looking to develop their high-potential candidates—those in middle and senior supply chain management positions with a transformative mindset—as future leaders. The agenda will cover critical industry topics including driving competitiveness, megatrends, and future global supply chains. More information can be found on the [Tomorrow's Leaders Today brochure \(pdf\)](#) or [AIAG's website](#).

On March 7, the Ilitch School announced its 2022 class of “25 Under 25” honorees. First launched in 2017, this competition celebrates the school’s top students in academics, leadership, professional development, and campus/community service. This year’s honorees were selected by a panel of executive judges from Affinity Tool, AGC Automotive Americas, Ally, Ascension Health, BDO, Detroit Pistons, Fifth Third Bank, GM, Google and Rock Central. The honorees will be celebrated at Detroit’s historic Gem Theatre on April 14. Learn more about the current and past winners and the competition at [ilitchbusiness.wayne.edu/25.php](http://ilitchbusiness.wayne.edu/25.php).

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

SIS student Troy Walker received a diversity scholarship from the Public Library Association to attend the organization’s PLA Conference in Portland, Oregon. Walker shared his experiences at the conference during a social media takeover on the school’s Facebook and Instagram accounts.

The school’s communications team launched its first text campaigns via the recently acquired Hustle platform. Approximately 1,500 messages were sent to current and prospective students resulting in a 25.5 percent engagement rate. The anecdotal response to the messages was overwhelmingly positive.

Faculty members Deborah Charbonneau, Chris D’Arpa, Xiangmin Zhang and Hermina Anghelescu shared recently published articles. Assistant Professor Timothy Bowman was a co-presenter of the Office for Teaching and Learning’s Virtual Brown Bag series session on equity and inclusion.

### **School of Medicine**

The medical student Class of 2021 achieved a 99% residency match rate, higher than the national average match rate and believed to be the highest match rate in the school’s history. The Class of 2022’s match rate is 97.4%, again higher than the national average of 92.9%. The school’s five-year residency match rate stands at 98%.

U.S. News and World Report named the School of Medicine a Top 100 medical school for research in its annual Best Medical Schools rankings. The magazine ranked the School of Medicine 66th in research of the 188 medical schools eligible for ranking. The school also was ranked 89th in the category of Primary Care and received top performing recognition for its ranking of 51st in Diversity and Medical Schools with the Most Graduates Practicing in Health Professional Shortage Areas.

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities awarded the School of Medicine \$18.15 million over five years to establish a Center for Multiple Chronic Diseases Associated with Health Disparities: Prevention, Treatment and Management, which will use community-based interventions to fight hypertension, heart failure and coronary heart disease

in the Black population. The Addressing Cardiometabolic Health Inequities by Early PreVENTion in the GREAT LakEs Region, or ACHIEVE GREATER, Center is a proactive versus reactive approach to reducing cardiometabolic health disparities and downstream Black-White lifespan inequality in Detroit and Cleveland, two uniquely comparable cities. The overarching goal is to mitigate health disparities in risk factor control for chronic conditions of tremendous public health importance, which drive downstream lifespan inequality.

The School of Medicine established the new Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases to build on the university's experiences in combating COVID-19 and to prepare Detroit and the state of Michigan to tackle pandemic diseases. The center is the first of its kind located in an urban setting within the state. The center received Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments certification, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services awarded the center \$4.3 million to increase lab facilities to collect and analyze genomic data to address emerging infectious disease threats and enhance the state's ability to respond to those threats, part of \$18.5 million provided to WSU, Michigan Tech University, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan to increase infectious disease sequencing capacity in the state, beginning with the COVID-19 virus.

The School of Medicine introduced an accelerated three-year medical degree program. The program is the only one of its kind in Michigan and is available to mature new students who have previous health care backgrounds and careers. It is expected to reduce student debt, further diversify the student body while providing an avenue for more experienced students to accelerate training, retain high-quality physicians as residents in WSU residency programs and eventually increase the corps of physicians in Michigan. The program will consist of a curriculum parallel to the traditional four-year education. The school also introduced a new joint degree program in which medical students can earn a Master of Business Administration degree 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. The program is a partnership between the WSU School of Medicine and WSU's Mike Ilitch School of Business.

### **Student Academic Success and Global Engagement**

The Office of the Provost announced several moves to streamline operations and improve student success. Enhancements include Warrior 360, a program that builds on the best practices from APEX and Warrior VIP student support programs and provides enhanced support services to students — particularly first-generation students and students from historically marginalized groups. The new program will allow the university to marshal more resources, invest more strategically and better integrate Warrior 360 throughout campus.

Wayne State University has been selected by the Institute of International Education to host the Fulbright U.S. Program Virtual Pre-Departure Orientation-Middle East and North Africa this summer. This program prepares U.S. Fulbright awardees who will be either teaching or conducting research in the MENA region by acclimating them to cultures and customs of the countries in the area, as well as expectations of the Fulbright Program. This is the fourth time the university has been named as host. The program is managed by the Office of International Programs.

Spring Open House drew nearly 1,000 students and guests to campus. 90 percent of student attendees were prospective first-time students almost evenly split between starting in Fall 2022 and Fall 2023. The Admissions team hosted Admitted Student Day (in-person) in early April and recently took part in the West Michigan College Fair and the Student Pathway Fair for Adult Learners, Transfers and Gap Year Students. First Year Student Orientation begins in May, returning to in-person sessions on Wayne State's campus with the guidance of Orientation Leaders who help incoming students learn to navigate the university. All incoming freshman and transfer students are required to attend Orientation.

Executive and Professional Development facilitated Wayne State's sponsorship of the Macomb County Economic Forecast Luncheon, where a panel discussion was held on the future economic outlook for the county, region/state, and country. This annual sponsorship is just one of the many ways the university demonstrates its commitment and efforts to support education needs in the county, a partnership that began more than 30 years ago when WSU became a founding member of the University Center-Macomb at Macomb Community College.

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), part of the Office of Executive and Professional Development, supported small businesses in Detroit interested in pursuing government contracting by offering its Government Contracting 101 Training series. Three virtual workshops were held: How to Become a Federal Contractor, SBA Programs, and Finding Opportunities. PTAC also participated in the MDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise conference to promote its services and serve as a resource for small businesses in the city who are looking for government contracts.

The Transfer Student Success Center has participated in numerous spring recruiting opportunities both in-person and online at St. Clair County Community College, Lansing Community College, Grand Rapids Community College, Oakland Community College and Macomb Community College.

### **OFFICE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

Institutional effectiveness team members Cathy Barrette, Marlana Frontera and Darin Ellis presented a paper entitled "**Preparing the Assurance Argument: Improved Processes and Stakeholder Engagement**" at the Higher Learning Commission annual conference, to share insights and best practices from our 2021 Assurance Review with a national audience. This presentation compared Wayne State University's 2017 and 2021 review processes, identified the conditions that made improvements possible for 2021 and shared lessons learned for other institutions to apply.

### **COMPUTING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

#### **STARS 2.0 Advising Management Platform**

Onboarding of an initial 712 campus advisors and administrators is now complete, including training at both graduate and undergraduate levels. This accomplishes our primary goal of one system for all advising on campus. Students are receiving coordinated care and actively scheduling approximately 200 appointments per day. Over 22,000 advising appointments have been scheduled and completed in STARS 2.0 since the initial launch in June 2021.

**WSU Remote Campus Connection Enhancements**

C&IT launched a new tool called "Always On VPN" which allow a Wayne State computer to seamlessly access on-campus resources while off-campus. This is done via a split connection—meaning only internet traffic going to campus systems uses the Wayne State VPN. All other internet traffic uses the faculty or staff's normal internet service provider. This project provides stability and security to our employees who are working off-campus

**OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

The DEI Council was created from a recommendation of the Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC). This group of nearly 50 people from across campus have been meeting in small working groups and reviewing the SJAC recommendations to provide implementation strategies toward achieving the recommendations. The four DEI Council working groups include: hiring and retention of diverse employees, student equity, metrics and evaluation, and DEI strategic planning. The groups have been reviewing the SJAC recommendations and identifying resource needs to accomplish recommendations. That phase of their work will be completed by mid-April.

The Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE), in collaboration with Student Success Operational Excellence, hosted a Black Student Conversation Café to learn more about the needs and experiences of Black Students on campus. The Conversation Café was an event designed to create space for undergraduate students who identify as Black or African American to share their educational and personal experiences. Through a series of guiding conversation questions, students discussed concerns, challenges, and triumphs with caring WSU faculty and staff to inform campus leaders on how to improve the Black student experience at Wayne State University. Over 30 student participants and 19 faculty/staff facilitators engaged in the 90-minute facilitated conversation.