

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

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

#### **College of Engineering**

The American Society of Civil Engineers ranked Detroit for the first time on its top 10 list of Best Places for Civil Engineers. Factors considered for the rankings include: available civil engineering jobs, cost of living, and the results of ASCE's civil engineering salary survey. The city has moved up 17 spots in these rankings since 2020. Wayne State is a significant contributor to the civil engineering talent pipeline in Detroit, as approximately 90% of the 225 students who study civil engineering at WSU come from Michigan. A 2020 report indicated that graduates one year out of college who earned a master's in civil engineering from Wayne State reported a median annual salary of \$71,900, tied for eighth in the U.S. The B.S. and M.S. programs boast employment rates of 92%, and 100%, respectively.

The IEEE Educational Activities Board announced that Ece Yaprak, professor and chair of engineering technology, has been selected to receive the 2022 Meritorious Achievement Award in Accreditation Activities. Yaprak is being acknowledged "for sustained contributions to IEEE and ABET accreditation activities in Engineering Technology programs." She has been involved with ABET Accreditation in various capacities since 2002 and currently holds the positions of ABET Board of Delegates representative and ABET Engineering Technology area delegate. Yaprak will be presented with the award during the IEEE Board Series Meeting on Nov. 18 in Vancouver.

Wayne State University received a \$584,114 contract to develop a collaborative research project with the Great Lakes Water Authority to create a workforce and laboratory center of the future. The three-year long project will focus on developing the existing Waterworks Park Pilot Plant facility on Jefferson Avenue to perform applied research, testing and evaluation, and workforce development for new and emerging technologies. Carol Miller and Yongli Wager from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering will lead the project.

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

Graduate Student Timiesha Knowles has been selected by the American Musicological Society as a recipient of a travel grant from the organization's Eileen Southern Travel Fund. Administered by the society's Committee on Cultural Diversity, the fund helps graduate students offset the costs of attending the annual AMS conference, which this year will be held in New Orleans in November. Ms. Knowles, who is pursuing a Master of Music degree with a concentration in vocal performance, has conducted scholarly research on the links between Jamaican popular music and political and sexual ideologies in the country.

Christine Nyawaga, PhD student in the Department of Communication, was awarded an external grant from the Waterhouse Family Institute for her proposed dissertation project. Waterhouse Institute gives out around 10 grants annually on the theme of social justice and communication; most of the grantees are tenure-track or tenured faculty rather than PhD students.

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

Wayne State College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) faculty have received a much-needed research boost thanks to a new funding initiative established in the [CLAS Mid-Career Fund for Research Infrastructure and Development](#) aims at addressing a major gap in funding for research-active faculty in the humanities, life, social and physical sciences. The support will provide researchers with updated tools, instrumentation and publication subventions, allowing them to continue critical studies. Faculty who received the support are hailing the initiative as incredibly well-received and, in some cases, career-saving.

A team from [Wayne State University's Department of Anthropology conducted archaeological excavations at the one-time home of American Civil Rights leader Malcolm X](#). Located in Inkster, the home is owned by the non-profit organization Project We Hope, Dream, and Believe, with whom the department is partnering and successfully landed the home on the National Register of Historic Places in 2021.

A team of CLAS social scientists, including Dean Stephanie Hartwell, are [examining Detroit's "service deserts"](#) — neighborhoods where residents face blight, high levels of incarceration, food insecurity, obesity, low annual income and a lack of reliable internet access. Hartwell explains that research like this is essential for a better understanding of Detroit and other urban areas. "The lessons from these residents in dealing with the dichotomy of Detroit's revitalization can guide other cities on the nuanced elements of resurgence without leaving behind the periphery populations.

Ten new faculty joined the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences this fall. The Department of African American Studies alone hired three new faculty members with expertise ranging from Black Studies to African American Literature. [Learn more about the AAS hires here](#).

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

**Health Care Sciences Department**, Dr. Nora Fritz, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, was awarded an NIH RO1 grant and four other major grants for her research into multiple sclerosis. Dr. Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller, Associate Professor in the Occupational Therapy program was awarded a Michigan Health Endowment Fund Award for work entitled, *Supporting African American older adults who care for family members with dementia*.

**Applied Health Sciences Department**, Pathologists' Assistant Program Director Dr. Lou Kramer was named to the national *Pathologist* journal's Power List. Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. MaryAnne Stewart led an interprofessional workshop bringing together Clinical Laboratory Science students and College of Nursing students with case studies and laboratory skills activities. Stewart also presented at the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science LABCON 2022 conference on how students learn and the impacts of COVID-19.

**Pharmacy Practice Department**, Associate Professor Christine Rabinak is part of \$12.5 million in projects funded by the State of Michigan's Cannabis Regulatory Agency expected to provide much-needed scientific understanding of the potential therapeutic benefits of cannabis and cannabinoids, particularly among veterans suffering post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Pharmaceutical Sciences Department**, Professor Randall Commissaris welcomed several undergraduate students into his lab as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program). An endowed scholarship award was established honoring longtime Department Chair and Professor George Corcoran, which was unveiled and presented for the first time to student Tiara Hinton.

### **Graduate School**

The Graduate School has introduced its third year of professional development events, expanding its offerings for the entire Wayne State community. After two years of developing events strictly for graduate students and faculty, the 2022-23 schedule of professional development events aim to educate the entire population at Wayne State. Topics for the 2022-23 academic year will include support with doing taxes, building a strong credit history, and how to be a great mentor. The Graduate School hopes to draw more than 100 attendees per event. Most will remain in a virtual format for this upcoming year.

The Pathway to Faculty Program is underway, and the Graduate School is administering it alongside the Provost's Office. Several programs across the university are in the process of searching for and hiring future tenure-track faculty. The goal is to provide new hires with an impressive package of benefits to help their research and teaching.

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

The Honors College completed a new Summer Engagement Program for incoming first-year students in August. The objective of the program was to enhance the entry-level experience for students by introducing them to individuals, systems, and locations they would be dealing with in their initial term, and familiarizing them with Honors College process and structure. The program was an opt-in, 11-week series of Canvas modules heavily skewed toward video and Powerpoint presentations that students could link to; a virtual self-paced book study of Colson Whitehead's novel *The Nickel Boys*; two Zoom discussion opportunities on the novel; and a social media presence on What'sApp and Instagram coordinated by a student intern. The program was led and coordinated by Tim Moran, Honors Assistant Professor of Teaching. The Canvas offering will remain available during the Fall semester as an asset for students.

The Honors College experienced another successful Applebaum Emerging Leaders (AEL) Program for Summer 2022, with final student presentations on August 16, 2022. This marked the third year of the program, whereby ten Honors students were selected to participate in AEL, which offers personal, professional and leadership development experiences to select Irvin D. Reid Honors College students in an engaging, interactive cohort. Each participating student received a stipend, and the Applebaum Emerging Leaders Program was lead and taught by Heather Walter-McCabe, Associate Professor at the Wayne State School of Social Work and Law School, with support and mentoring from Wayne State University faculty and administrators, community leaders, and business professionals. More information on the program is provided at <https://honors.wayne.edu/academics/applebaum>

On August 18, 2022 the students engaged with the summer Rocket Companies Tech On-Ramp Program made their final group presentations. Now in its third year, this program is a collaboration between the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and the Rocket Family of Companies. Together with Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT), which works with Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) to recruit high school students to the summer

program, the Honors College provided summer internship opportunities for Honors students to mentor DPSCD youth in technology and digital skills. The six-week intensive summer program engaged Honors students—each of whom received a \$5,000 stipend-- to serve as a mentor and coach to local high school students. The summer enrichment program focused on computer science, educational technology and writing computer code. The program itself is coordinated by an Honors student who completed the internship in a previous summer along with Ali Salamey, Honors administrator, and professional staff from Rocket Companies.

## **Law School**

### ***Wayne Law No. 19 Nationwide for “Gold Standard” Employment for Class of 2021***

The Law School continued its upward trajectory in the career success of its most recent graduates. Ten months after graduation, when the American Bar Association measures law school employment outcomes, Wayne Law’s class of 2021 had a 93.7% job placement rate in “gold standard” jobs—full-time, long-term jobs for which bar admission is required or for which a J.D. is an advantage. That figure puts the Law School at No. 19 in the country out of nearly 200 law schools, better than Michigan Law and up a remarkable 102 spots, from No. 121, just four years ago.

### ***Student Donates Over 1,000 Pro Bono Hours While in Law School***

Wayne Law's student voluntary pro bono program encourages law students to use their professional training to benefit under-served populations and the community at large. Wayne State University Law student **Muthu Veerappan '22** set the school record for the highest number of pro bono hours donated by a single student, reaching 1,020 total pro bono hours with the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office as part of the Warrior Pro Bono Pledge. The graduating class donated nearly 2,400 pro bono hours.

### ***Housing Justice Program Continues and Expands into Second Year***

The Wayne Law Housing Corps enters its second year providing direct representation to Detroit residents facing eviction and other housing-related issues. The Corps partners with Lakeshore Legal Aid, United Community Housing Coalition, Michigan Legal Services, and Legal Aid and Defender Association. In addition to providing direct representation through the Corps, Wayne Law students will have a new opportunity this fall to work on advocacy projects related to housing justice. Wayne Law has partnered with the Community Development Advocates of Detroit (CDAD) to offer the Law School’s Community Advocacy Clinic with a focus on safe, affordable, accessible housing in Detroit. Co-taught with Tonya Meyers-Phillips and **Ruth Johnson '86**, clinic students will study the history of housing injustice in Detroit, analyze currently policies related to Detroit housing, and work with CDAD members on advocacy projects.

## **Mike Ilitch School of Business**

Wayne State University’s undergraduate programs in global supply chain management are once again [among the nation’s top 25](#) according to Gartner, a leading industry research company that releases rankings every other year. The Ilitch School program came in at number 21 for 2022, its highest ranking ever. Gartner also ranks the Ilitch School’s M.B.A. concentration in supply chain among the nation’s top 25.

Professor of Finance Mbodja Mougoué has received a [Fulbright U.S. Scholar award](#). Mougoué will live and work in Senegal, where he use his expertise in investment and financial

markets to help the Senegalese government establish a commodities derivatives market to smooth the volatility of prices that often lead to civil unrest. This is Mougoué's second Fulbright Scholar award.

Professor of Global Supply Chain Management Tingting Yan has received a [Fulbright Specialist award](#). Yan, a Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellow, travelled to the University of Groningen in the Netherlands over the summer where she led workshops and seminars and conducted research.

Kmart Endowed Chair and Professor of Marketing Abhijit Biswas has been selected to receive a [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from the American Marketing Association Retail and Pricing Special Interest Group (AMA RAPSIG). He was presented with the award at the 2022 AMA Summer Academic Conference in August. Biswas received the Ilitch School's Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Research in 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2020.

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

### **Undergraduate Admissions**

More than 100 families with rising seniors were welcomed to campus for Warrior Summer Preview programs. The [Generation Next Assured Admission program](#) kicked off in the College of Education, which hosted a NextGen Teachers Summer Program with the Michigan Education Association. The two-week residential program drew 37 students; 22 rising seniors successfully completed the program and were offered assured admission to WSU as graduates of the program.

### **Career Services**

Career Services has more than 50 employer events scheduled for fall including major-specific virtual career fairs, employer panels, information sessions, employer workshops, and networking opportunities. The team will host student engagement opportunities including workshops specifically for FYRE (First Year Residential Experience) students to become more familiar with Career Services resources; resume-writing tips; and a collaborative workshop series with Counseling and Psychological Services to incorporate mental health into the career journey for students.

### **Office of Military Veterans Academic Excellence (OMVAE)**

OMVAE staff offered the Warrior Re-Boot program to incoming military-affiliated students to help them acclimate to WSU's higher education environment and find support resources. The five-day program covered transitioning into higher education from military service, utilizing study strategies to study smarter not harder, career planning, financial aid and military education benefits.

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

OIP hosted 25 emerging leaders from sub-Saharan Africa as part of the U.S. Department of State's [Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders](#) initiative, which prepares fellows through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities and local community engagement, to help spur economic growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance and enhance peace and security across Africa. This is the second year in a row Wayne State has been selected as an Institute Partner. The fellows arrived in early June for a six-week Public Management Leadership

Institute managed by OIP in partnership with the WSU master of public administration program, which provided the academic content for the institute.

### **Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC)**

Wayne State signed two critical transfer agreements with Jackson College and with Oakland Community College. The agreements allow for simplified transfer pathways in business administration (accounting, finance, global supply chain management, information systems management, management or marketing), construction management, criminal justice, electrical/electronic engineering technology, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, mechanical engineering technology, or public health. This is part of expanded access to a four-year degree by simplifying transfer credit for all students from two-year colleges, eliminating the transfer credit limit, and allowing students to transfer all earned credit for a quicker path to graduation.

### **STUDENT LIFE**

New Student Convocation and Festifall took place on August 29. This annual tradition welcome new students and their families and over 325 student organizations and university departments had information tables to engage students in campus life and the academic pursuits.

Over 420 student organizations have already registered for the 2022-2023 academic year. This is the highest number ever at this point in the academic year and this can be attested to student eagerness to re-engage with campus activities.

The Wayne State e-sports program is now recognized as a varsity sport activity through the National Association of Collegiate E-Sports. This allows the program to compete nationwide in e-sport tournaments. The e-sports program is co-presented by the Division of Computing and Information Technology and the Dean of Students Office.

The Dean of Students Office is preparing for student voter engagement this fall through partnerships with the Campus Vote Project, which supports two campus voting fellows, and an early voting grant received from MTV.

The Student Center is now the home of the campus reservations office. This collaborative effort with the Office of the Registrar and the Division of Computing and Information Technology provides student organizations, university departments, and outside organizations a one-stop shop to reserve spaces available for programs, events, and activities. These spaces include classrooms for non-class purposes, the Student Center, McGregor Memorial Conference Center, Community Arts Auditorium, St. Andrews Hall, Gullen Mall, and Keast Commons.

### **OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

This past academic year, the Office of the Registrar hosted several Degree Works drop-ins through the Advising Training Academy to give advisors a refresher on various topics in our degree audit system. These sessions have been held monthly and provide advisors an opportunity to speak directly to the Degree Audit team on questions and concerns related to the students they are advising. These sessions will continue through the calendar year, with plans to begin other similar drop-ins in 2023. As reported previously, the Office of the Registrar contracted transcript services through the National Student Clearinghouse. After

assessing the system after the first quarter of use, we can report that we have processed nearly 10,000 requests through the service. Over 97% of these requests were processed within an hour. A plurality of our transcripts are sent for employment purposes. 91% are sent as electronic records – a 10% increase over our prior system. All in all, students are pleased with the ease of requesting transcripts and the high level of communication we are now able to provide about the status of their requests.

Recipients of the 2022 WSU Program Assessment Grants have been selected. They include faculty and staff in Criminology & Criminal Justice, Learning Communities & First-year Interest Groups, Library and Information Sciences, Music, Public Health, and Sociology. Funds support programs' efforts to advance their assessment practices and improve student learning outcomes and student success.

### **COMPUTING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Campus Classroom Technology Upgrades**, C&IT continues to upgrade campus classroom spaces with hybrid and hyflex technology for the upcoming fall and winter semesters. This includes substantial upgrades to 24 hybrid/hyflex teaching and learning spaces in Science Hall, Shapiro, Manoogian, Deroy, General Lectures and Old Main. In addition to new fixed classroom equipment, additional investments have been made to secure 5 advanced hyflex mobile media stations that can service any space, as well as portable "Owl" conference devices.