

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### **Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement**

##### **Office of International Programs**

OIP successfully closed the season of summer programs Aug. 10 after hosting three special programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, including:

- Worldwide Fulbright Gateway Orientation for 900 Fulbright awardees from 130 countries to help them understand the expectations of their program and prepare for arrival in the U.S. for up to two years of study and research. This is the sixth year OIP has hosted Gateway, and Wayne State was just selected for the seventh year as the sole global provider of Gateway Orientation.
- Fulbright MENA Orientation for 30 U.S. Fulbright awardees heading to placements in the Middle East and North Africa; and
- The Mandela Washington Fellowship program, providing a six-week, in-person Leadership Institute for 25 up-and-coming young professionals from 19 African nations.

The Office of Fellowships, part of OIP, is continuing informational and recruitment activities after hosting its most successful award season in university history. Staff presented to students during Warrior 360 Momentum Week and Warrior 360 Meet and Greet, and partnered with the Writing Center to offer a special workshop for students applying for Fulbright awards. The office teamed with Study Abroad to offer a presentation on the Gilman Scholarship and Critical Language Scholarship, both of which were awarded to Wayne State students last year.

##### **Undergraduate Admissions**

The 2024 application launched on August 1 for Fall, Winter and Spring/Summer 2024.

Wayne State University is one of 10 public universities in Michigan participating in a new assured admissions program for FTIACS entering college in Fall 2024. The Michigan Assured Admissions Pact is designed to increase awareness of post-secondary opportunities in the state of Michigan by demystifying the admission process and offering admission to Michigan high school graduates who earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above.

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Wayne State is participating in the pilot Chicago Public Schools Direct Admission program, an initiative designed to give more than 25,000 seniors in CPS an early look at institutions that they will be admissible to based on a required GPA. WSU is offering direct admission to CPS high school seniors with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above.

For the second consecutive year, Wayne State offered assured admission to rising seniors who successfully completed the Next Gen Teacher program, a partnership with the WSU College of Education and the Michigan Education Association. This year, 24 rising seniors received an offer of assured admission to WSU. They must apply to the university and earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above. Fee waivers were provided to cover the cost of the application.

Admissions hosted two Warrior Summer Preview events for rising high school seniors to learn more about student life, academic programs and participate in campus tour experiences. The events drew 430 students and 960 guests.

The fall outreach and recruitment activities calendar is packed, with Admissions participating in the Bilingual Admissions Program at La Sed, Midtown Educators Night, annual Detroit College Fair/DPSCD, WSU Open House, Michigan Pre-College & Youth Conference, College Onsite Decision Day/DPSCD and Giant Step Teen Conference. The team also will participate in three National Association for College Admission Counseling virtual fairs, and in-person fairs in Chicago and Cincinnati.

In collaboration with the Detroit College Access Network, Admissions will host the Metro Detroit Counselor Conference in October for metro Detroit counselors and college transition advisers. The university also will host the ACT College & Career Readiness Conference for local high school counselors.

### **Transfer Student Success Center**

For the sixth consecutive year, Wayne State University has been named to Phi Theta Kappa's 2023 [Transfer Honor Roll](#), which recognizes excellence in the development and support of dynamic and innovative pathways for community college transfer students. Key metrics include college cost and financial aid, campus life for transfers, admission practices and bachelor's degree completion. WSU is one of only three public universities in the state to receive the honor.

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

In celebration of the 10-year partnership between Schoolcraft College and Wayne State University, the institutions announced an expanded agreement that provides transfer students with a clear path from an associate degree to a bachelor's, limiting any loss of credits and helping families save tuition dollars. A special signing ceremony was hosted at the Wayne State University center at Schoolcraft to make the Pathways program official. It goes into effect in fall 2023.

### **Executive and Professional Development (EPD)**

EPD coordinated the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers, and Finance Officers annual conference in Austin, Texas. Six continuing education sessions were delivered to approximately 100 finance professionals from across the country. Topics included generational diversity, best practices in documentation, cash flow forecasting, tax deeds, tax liens and environmental/social governance.

EPD facilitated the board strategic planning discussion for the Michigan Humane Society and started a small group coaching engagement to support the development of 12 midlevel managers. The team also facilitated the WSU Foundation Board's annual meeting to assist in setting goals and identifying tactics for its work in driving campaign success, managing investments and advocating for the university.

### **Career Services**

The office hosted its first on-campus Student Employment Job Fair in August which was attended by more than 400 students. It will be followed by the All Majors In-Person Career Fair and an All-Majors Virtual Career Fair, both in October.

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

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences [celebrates the appointment of three distinguished scholars as the new academic department chairs](#) for the fall 2023 semester. Ed Cackett, Sharon Lean, and Markus Friedrich are set to take the helm of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the Department of Political Science, and the Department of Biological Sciences, respectively. Eric Ash will serve as acting chair of the Department of History.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences welcomes more than two dozen new faculty from across the globe this fall. With expertise ranging from aging workers to science communication, their portfolios promise to usher in a new academic era at WSU. [Meet](#)

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

[some of them here.](#)

CLAS is gearing up for several exciting events this semester including the [grand opening of its Humanities Commons on Sept. 21](#). The dynamic new student space is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library.

[WSU Masters of Urban Planning students spent their summer helping Detroit's famed Heidelberg Project](#). During their capstone course, students developed a host of environmentally friendly recommendations for the art project that would increase foot traffic at Heidelberg, enhance the staff's resource capacity and enable the redesigned location to support more programming.

A new study published in part by WSU Sociologist Jeffrey Kentor found that [militarization can amplify the effect of economic growth on carbon emissions](#). Professor Kidada Williams' (History) book, ["I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction,"](#) is described as, "powerful and deeply moving," by the Los Angeles Times Book Review

Professor Jinsheng Zhang, chair of the Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders, was [named the new Chair of the American Tinnitus Association](#).

Political Science student and 2023 commencement speaker Ibrahim Ahmad was awarded the [prestigious Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship](#). Funded by the U.S. Department of State, about 45 Rangel awards were offered to 900 candidates. The \$100,000 scholarship is one of the most exclusive, paying for two years of graduate study and providing two internships, one on Capitol Hill and another at a consulate or embassy.

Communications Sciences and Disorders Professor Derek Daniels [received the Professional of the Year award from the National Stuttering Association](#) in July.

CLAS and CFPCA co-hosted the second annual [J Dilla Music Tech Teaching Workshop](#) in July. A partnership with the Save the Music Foundation, the two-day professional development program for K-12 music teachers focused on electronic music production in the classroom. In addition to the workshop, participants enjoyed networking with fellow educators and hearing from the music industry's greatest artists and professionals local to Detroit and inspired by J Dilla.

History Professor Andrew Port [presented his new book, "Never Again: Germans after the Holocaust," at the Holocaust Museum in July](#).

Biological sciences and urban sustainability graduate student [Sarah Black interned for the summer at the Sustainability Office in Ferndale](#).

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Economics professor Yulya Truskinovsky secured a [\\$3 million NIH grant to study COVID-19 long-term care for elderly adults](#).

Warning of the dangers of eating contaminated fish, Professor and Environmental Science Program Director Donna Kashian's ["river walker" program was recently highlighted in Bridge Michigan](#).

During the first week of classes, CLAS celebrated the retirement of Development Officer Gina Horwitz with a new scholarship in her name.

Fourteen faculty were awarded CLAS Social Justice grants for pilot research projects in the social sciences:

- R. Khari Brown, sociology, and Ronald Brown, political science: Religion and politics
- Fernando Charro, Mathematics: SKY Happiness program
- Margaret Greenwald, CSD: When communication-impaired persons meet law enforcement
- Jared Grogan, English: Partnership WSU and TechTown
- Michelle R. Jacobs, Sociology: Communication with inmates — Wrongful conviction
- Adrienne Jankens, English: Non-productive grade rates for minority students during COVID-19
- Kyu-Nahm Jun, Political Science: Exploring inequality-driven mistrust and compliance with COVID-19
- Julie Lesnik, Anthropology: Community-engaged research with Detroit Horse Power
- Andrew Newman, Anthropology: Participants' experiences of Parisian ethnographic exhibits, 1877-1893
- Aaron B. Retish, History: Historical reckoning project
- Jessica Robbins, Anthropology: Inclusive therapeutic reminiscence for persons with dementia
- Jukka Savolainen, Criminal Justice: The Floyd effect
- Sarah Swider, Sociology: Autoethnographic explorations of social inequality
- Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Sociology: Mapping ways to mute social justice without sounding like a ghoul

Last, but certainly not least, CLAS acknowledges the [loss and passing of longtime WSU employee and philanthropist Carol Schaap](#).

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**College of Education  
Programs and Events  
Archives in Classroom and Community summary**

The college hosted a party on Thursday, August 3, to celebrate its 142nd birthday. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and guests enjoyed ice cream and cake, popcorn, beverages, and one another's company. Guests also had the opportunity to meet Dean Denise Taliaferro Baszile; check out the new student lounge, meditation rooms, and co-working space; and win College of Education swag. Prize drawings took place every 30 minutes beginning at 11:30 a.m. Lucky winners took home items such as tote bags, baseball caps, water bottles, and blankets.

The college co-sponsored the fourth annual Jumpstart Virtual Conference, a day-long event hosted by the Initiative for Race Research and Justice at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. The conference took place on Tuesday, July 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CDT). Twenty-five individuals — including College of Education faculty, staff, and graduate students; members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council; and faculty and staff from the College of Liberal Arts and Science, School of Information Sciences, School of Social Work, and other departments — heard three keynote speakers and attended two breakout sessions, all centered on issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism in education.

The college welcomed more than 40 high school students who are aspiring educators to campus for the Next Gen Teachers summer program. The two-week residential college and career readiness initiative, which ran from July 10-21, seeks to expose young people to careers in education and to diversify the pool of teaching candidates. Participants toured Wayne State's campus, learned about university resources, attended workshops, practiced their teaching skills, and explored Detroit during field trips.

**DEVELOPMENT/SCHOLARSHIPS**

An endowed scholarship honoring alumnus Dr. Reginald "Reg" Wilson's lifelong commitment to promoting education and equity. The Reginald Wilson, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship will assist students transferring from Wayne County Community College — where Dr. Wilson served as president from 1971 to 1981 — to Wayne State.

**GRANTS/CONTRACTS**

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
 Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Principal Investigator(s)	Agency	Title	Award Amount
RESEARCH			
Holly Feen-Calligan (Art Therapy)	Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan	Arts Hub Detroit	\$75,000
Jennifer Lewis, Roland Sintos Coloma (Teacher Education)	General Motors	Detroit STEM Education Across the Professional Trajectory	\$263,797
Rema Reynolds (Educational Leadership & Policy Studies)	Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District (PRIME: Michigan Department of Education)	Centering Black Children in Education Conference	\$175,000
Emily Jo Noschese (Bilingual and Bicultural Education for American Sign Language)	University Research Grant	Implications of Cross Modal Metalinguistic Knowledge on ASL and English	\$10,000
Jeanne Barcelona (Community Health)	Michigan Fitness Foundation	Metro Detroit Healthy Youth Initiative	\$260,000
Roland Coloma (Teacher Education)	Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan	Southeast Michigan Pipeline for Next Generation of Diverse Teachers	\$58,000
Leah Ketcheson (Health and Physical Education)	Michigan Health Endowment Fund	Physical Literacy and Nutrition Education 2.0 (PLANE 2.0)	\$250,000
Anna Miller (Teacher Education)	U.S. Department of Education	Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS – Year 3 of 5)	\$387,360
Sandra Gonzales (Teacher Education)	U.S. Department of Education	College of Education Upward Bound (Year 2 of 4)	\$309,504

The Detroit Partnership for Education Equity & Research (PEER) released a new policy brief that revealed homeless students in Detroit schools are severely under identified.

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

The study was conducted in partnership with researchers at Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan and the College of Education at Michigan State University. [New policy brief from Wayne State University's Detroit PEER reveals Detroit schools under-identify homeless students - College of Education - Wayne State University](#)

## IN THE NEWS

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research (PEER) was interviewed on WDET-FM 101.9 about a recent report by Detroit PEER and the University of Michigan's Poverty Solutions that illustrated how housing instability affects Detroit students. <https://wdet.org/2023/08/24/research-finds-housing-instability-in-detroit-hurts-students/>

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research was quoted in a Detroit Free Press article about the high rates of absenteeism among Michigan students

Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise physiology, was quoted in an article in *The Atlantic* about the amount of water you should drink. <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2023/08/drinking-water-hydration-amount-importance/674926/>

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research, was quoted in a *Child in the City* article about efforts to identify Detroit students who experience homelessness. <https://www.childinthecity.org/2023/08/02/usa-detroit-district-gets-better-at-identifying-homeless-students-but-study-points-to-big-undercount/?gdpr=accept>

Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise physiology, was quoted in an article in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* about foods that help you stay hydrated. <https://www.ajc.com/life/these-foods-can-help-to-keep-you-hydrated/YPNE3HR2PGESGHAWBUZOS6L3EQ/>

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research (PEER), was quoted in an article about chronic absenteeism in Michigan schools.

- <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/mi-schools-explore-ways-to-battle-chronic-absenteeism/ar-AA1dxTVA?ocid=Peregrine>



Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

- <https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2023-07-07/education/mi-schools-explore-ways-to-battle-chronic-absenteeism/a85200-1>

The Wayne State University College of Education's \$260,000 award from General Motors for STEM programs was highlighted on WDET-FM 101.9.  
[wdet.org/2023/07/03/wayne-state-gm-stem-grant](https://wdet.org/2023/07/03/wayne-state-gm-stem-grant)

Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise physiology, was quoted in an article about the amount of water individuals should drink daily.  
<https://wtop.com/news/2023/06/how-much-water-should-i-drink-in-a-day>

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research (PEER), discussed the center's recent policy brief in an article about Detroit schools' efforts to identify homeless students.

- <https://www.bridgedetroit.com/detroit-district-gets-better-at-identifying-homeless-students-but-study-points-to-big-undercount>
- <https://detroit.chalkbeat.org/2023/6/21/23769037/detroit-school-district-student-homelessness-housing-insecurity-wayne-state-mckinney-vento>
- <https://www.childinthecity.org/2023/08/02/usa-detroit-district-gets-better-at-identifying-homeless-students-but-study-points-to-big-undercount/?gdpr=accept>

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor and director of the Detroit PEER, discussed the critical work the center does to support Detroit schools on "Warriors in the Community" on WWJ Newsradio 950. <https://today.wayne.edu/news/2023/06/19/warriors-in-the-community-episode-10-detroits-peer-53619?>

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Professor Emeritus Michael F. Addonizio wrote an opinion piece about HB 4354 and its impact on teacher recruitment and retention.  
<https://www.detroitnews.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.detroitnews.com%2Fstory%2Fopinion%2F2023%2F06%2F11%2Fhb-4354-will-boost-teacher-recruitment-retention-in-michigan%2F70306362007%2F>

Sarah Kiperman, assistant professor of educational psychology, was quoted in the *Science News Explores* article, "Supportive spaces help LGBTQ+ youth thrive in school

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

and beyond." <https://www.snexplores.org/article/supportive-spaces-help-lgbtq-youth-thrive-school>

Sandra Gonzales, associate professor of bilingual and bicultural education and director of the COE Upward Bound program, discussed the initiative and its impact on high school students in southwest Detroit on "Warriors in the Community" on WWJ Newsradio 950. <https://today.wayne.edu/news/2023/06/05/warriors-in-the-community-episode-8-upward-bound-53539>

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Evan Condron, a student in the art education program, helped cancer survivor Jamie Dungey of New Jersey tell her story through art, and his work was featured in the "Twist Out Cancer" exhibit. Condron was quoted in an article in *The South End*.

[https://www.thesouthend.wayne.edu/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/article\\_10ef08d0-f786-11ed-9d40-43a7ab466d68.html](https://www.thesouthend.wayne.edu/arts_and_entertainment/article_10ef08d0-f786-11ed-9d40-43a7ab466d68.html)

### **ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Alumna Mary Jenkins-Williams received the 2023 Homer D. Strong Award, which is given to individuals for their distinguished service to the alumni association and university as a whole and recognizes individuals who encourage alumni participation and benefit the university through volunteer leadership.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJnsr66fnKU>

### **Alumna Tara Reid was named to the Wayne State University Alumni Association.**

Two-time alumna Wanda Cook-Robinson '90, '84 received the 2023 Women Rock Science Outstanding Leader Award from the Cranbrook Institute of Science. As the superintendent of the Oakland Schools ISD, Cook-Robinson strives to create positive learning environments for the more than 200,000 students in Oakland County's 28 public school districts, public school academies, and non-public schools. She is the co-founder of Minority Women's Network, which supports women and educators of color across the county returning to school to complete their doctoral degrees. Cook-Robinson will be celebrated at the 6th Annual Women Rock Science gala on October 11, 2023.

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

The Honors College is preparing for its largest incoming class of more than 600 students joining Honors for the Fall 2024 semester. To accommodate and serve the increased

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

number of Honors students, the college has hired two additional faculty and an additional academic advisor.

The Honors College welcomed Dr. Stephanie Bundy (Education Technology Leadership, Morehead State University) and Dr. Serena Wilcox (Social Sciences and Education Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) to the roster of Honors faculty.

Honors faculty member Kevin Deegan Krause led two summer reading groups for incoming Honors students, one online and one in-person, that engaged students in discussions around readings of Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer-prize winning novel, *The Nickel Boys*. More than 70 students participated in these July events.

The Honors College established an online gateway for students (#Honorsatwayne) through the GetInvolved platform, to connect with incoming students about their questions, concerns and excitement of the upcoming school year. Students engaged with the site over four weeks in preparation for their arrival on campus. The site also provided students with key dates and invitations for Honors Fall Opening activities.

A number of students in the Wayne Med Direct program participated in a trip to South Africa, where the pre-med students traveled to Cape Town to learn from health care providers, patients, and public health professionals.

The Honors College completed its fourth year of the Rocket Summer Tech Internship, where we partnered with Rocket Companies and Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) to fund nine Honors students to coach 22 Detroit high schoolers in coding, gaming, website design, digital/film arts, and social media app development.

To assist the incoming students who are Living Learning Community members, Honors organized a cohort of students and staff to serve as "move-in buddies" on Thursday, August 24 for the Honors students moving into Chatsworth.

Honors hosted a special Open House on Friday, August 25 for incoming and continuing Honors students and their guests in the Honors College (2100 UGL). The special event provided an opportunity for students, parents and friends to meet Honors faculty and staff, as well as other Honors students. Guests enjoyed interactive activities, an ice cream social, and other refreshments. New students also received Honors College t-shirts.

Acting Honors Dean Elena Past welcomed students, parents and guests at the Honors College booth for "Meet the Deans" during the FestiFall celebration on Sunday, August 27. In addition to meeting with students, the Honors College distributed information

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

about the benefits of Honors membership, as well as lots of Honors College branded souvenirs.

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

Professor of **Pharmaceutical Sciences** Wanqing Liu received a \$3 million, five-year award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health. The study, "Interaction between Genome and Heavy Metals in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease," aims to discover and validate the gene X heavy metal (GXM) interactions in human livers and to understand their role in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). Dr. Andrea Cassidy-Bushrow, senior scientist and epidemiologist in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Henry Ford Health, is the co-principal investigator on the study.

Associate Clinical Professor of **Pharmacy Practice** Dennis Parker graduated from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's competitive Academic Leadership Fellows Program at the 2023 AACP Meeting in Aurora, CO.

Associate Professor of **Physical Therapy** Joseph Roche published a review paper on a novel mechanism of action for COVID vaccines, "Protection against Severe Illness versus Immunity—Redefining Vaccine Effectiveness in the Aftermath of COVID-19," in the journal *Microorganisms*. Doctoral student Taylor Takla, who works in Associate Professor of **Physical Therapy** Nora Fritz's Neuroimaging and Neurorehabilitation Lab (NNL), was awarded a Thomas C. Rumble Fellowship.

The Doctor of **Nurse Anesthesia** Practice program graduated 24 students, all of whom had jobs in the field lined up at the time of commencement.

A scholarship fund was set up in memory of **Radiologic Technology** Program Director Sarah Borland, who passed away suddenly on July 14, 2023.

The **Office of Student Affairs** welcomed Jessica Cheriez into the new role of Student Success Coach. She will help WSU Applebaum students set goals, create outcome-driven habits, and manage personal change and well-being.

### **School of Social Work**

**Center for Behavioral Health and Justice:**

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

- The CBHJ operates 20 projects across six different initiatives with community partners in 39 counties across Michigan and a total operating budget of \$2.8 million.
- Leonard Swanson, crisis response manager, was [awarded](#) 2023 Researcher of the Year at the Crisis Intervention Team International Conference.
- Rahni Cason, jail diversion manager, was [interviewed](#) by Tulsa Public Radio about the work of the State of Michigan and the CBHJ on jail diversion. The article was picked up by at least seven other publications nationally.
- A recent [publication](#) was featured on the cover of the July issue of the American Public Health Journal. The study found a strong correlation between police drug busts and a sharp, sudden rise in opioid overdose deaths and a less significant rise in stimulant overdose deaths. The article recommends re-examining law enforcement practices that may be exacerbating the overdose epidemic. CBHJ researchers authored the article with researchers at WSU School of Medicine, RTI International, Boston College, North Carolina State University, and Rutgers University.
- The CBHJ sent its first annual legislative mailer to all 149 Michigan Legislators, outlining key policy issues for advancing behavioral health and justice in Michigan. The mailer covers current issues, recommendations, and the CBHJ's work in crisis response, assisted outpatient treatment, and youth justice.

#### Faculty:

- Dean Sheryl Kubiak [received the 2023 Miriam C. Noland Award for Nonprofit Leadership](#) established by the Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. This annual award and grant recognizes a nonprofit leader whose service to his/her institution exemplifies the importance of personal commitment to philanthropy. The award also acknowledges the importance of nonprofit leadership that influences beyond the university's walls and impacts the larger philanthropic community in a positive way.

#### Students and Training:

- Thanks to a [Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant](#) received by the Michigan Department of Education, up to 11 Wayne State University Master of Social Work (MSW) students who complete internships in high-need Wayne County schools will each receive up to \$20,000 to cover tuition and other

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

educational costs. Starting fall 2023, we'll be able to provide up to 185 stipends to interns and their supervisors over the next five years to train school-based mental health service providers for employment in schools and local educational agencies (LEAs).

- Social Work and Anthropology (SWAN) PhD student Laura Sutherland has [received a 2023 Research Stimulus Grant](#) from the WSU Provost's Steering Committee on Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health to explore how art can expand communication for those with dementia.
- Two Social Work Doctoral Students, Laura Sutherland and Jenny Clift, [received The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation Student Award Program research grants](#). Sutherland, a SWAN student, will focus on how art activities influence social relations of persons with dementia and Social Work PhD student Clift will identify how Black young adults perceive and feel about their previous healthcare system experiences.
- The School of Social Work, as part of the Title IV-E Stated funded child welfare training initiative, [will train and support the next generation of Michigan's child welfare leaders](#). Once the initiative launches - anticipated in the coming year - participating students will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per semester in stipends along with dedicated mentorship and child welfare training opportunities. In exchange for each stipend, students will commit to six months of work in a child welfare agency following graduation.

#### Research and Community Engagement:

- Social Work Associate Professor Tam Perry and her community colleague Hannan Center Director of Social Work Melissa Draughn have [received The Rothman Award for Structural Change Practice](#) from the Special Commission to Advance Macro Social Work for their work as members of the Senior Housing Preservation – Detroit Coalition amplifying the voices of older adults and combat age discrimination in housing.
- Assistant Professor and Holistic Defense Coordinator Athena Kheibari [received a WSU Social Sciences Research Support Program Award](#) to support her latest research project, "An Exploratory Study of Public Attitudes Toward Online Pro-Choice Suicide Forums."
- Assistant Professor Bridget Weller has been awarded a five-year \$3.25 million HRSA grant to establish the Detroit Tri-County Social Work Health Career

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Opportunity Academy to prepare 475 current and future allied health and social work professionals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to provide culturally responsive health care in the Detroit Tri-County. The grant will include additional social work faculty Shantalea Johns, Suzanne Brown and Anwar Najor-Durack, and the following community partners: Oakland County Community College, Macomb County Community College and Wayne County Community College.

### **College of Engineering**

Alexander Kotov, associate professor of computer science in the College of Engineering, received a grant of nearly \$404,000 from the National Institute of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to focus on modern artificial intelligence technologies that could aid weight loss counseling. Kotov will lead a research study aiming to develop and feasibility test a Neural Agent for Obesity Motivational Interviewing – or NAOMI – an artificially intelligent conversational agent for automated motivational interviewing, a client-centered and directive approach that has shown to be effective for promoting and supporting long-term behavior change, including changes to lifestyle and diet that are needed to cope with obesity, one of the most significant medical and public health problems in the U.S. April Idalski Carcone and Elizabeth Towner from the School of Medicine are co-investigators on the grant.

A research team led by Yongli Wager, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, from Wayne State University's NIH-funded program, the Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR), published a paper in *Sustainable Computing* that describes a new technique they developed that couples the Internet of Things sensor network with Edge Computing (IoTEC) to improve environmental monitoring. The researchers tested their sensor packages in two pilot applications to monitor vapor intrusion of pollution moving from air spaces in soil to indoor air and algae cultivation in wastewater. The results revealed that IoTEC can lower the energy and bandwidth needs for data transmission, shorten response times, and reduce costs, overall alleviating current challenges to real-time environmental monitoring.

A multi-institutional research collaboration led by Gozde Tutuncuoglu, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, has received a five-year, \$766,136 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project titled "MSN Force: A Midwest Semiconductor Collaborative Network for Work Force Training." This will be a joint effort across several higher education institutes in the Midwest region — including the

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

University of Michigan, Purdue University and Ohio State University — as well as with industry leaders and other research partners. MSN Force intends to establish a collaborative network that addresses the increasing need for highly skilled workers in the semiconductor industry in the region, with the ultimate goal of creating a model that can scale nationwide to meet the growing demand of semiconductor chips and sustain U.S. leadership in this critical field.

The Center for Electric, Connected and Autonomous Technologies for Mobility (eCAT), for which Wayne State serves as the lead institution, received a five-year grant with a total budget of more than \$4.5 million (\$2.25M from NSF and \$2.25M+ from industry). eCAT is an NSF IUCRC (Industry-University Cooperative Research Center) tasked with developing sustainable mobility technologies such as electrification, smart infrastructure and resilient edge computing systems for autonomous driving. Wayne State partnered with the University of North Texas and Clarkson University to establish eCAT, composed of a diverse group of scientists interested in closing a gap in synergistic research pertaining to electric vehicle design, autonomous systems, V2X communications and real-time edge computing. More universities are expected to join the center, including the University of Delaware and Virginia Tech.

For the third consecutive year, the Wayne State University student chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) will compete in the national finals of the ELECTRI International/NECA Electrical Contracting Innovation Challenge (ECIC). A team of students in the College of Engineering's construction management program will travel to Philadelphia for the 2023 NECA Convention in October to conclude a yearlong competition in which students collaborated with local professionals, applied classroom learning, and used their creativity and ingenuity to design a new electrical system for a proposed student center facility. Wayne State was one of three teams selected, along with Iowa State University and the University of Wisconsin.

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

#### **College news:**

Through the generosity of donors, 197 students recently received over \$650,000 at the Ilitch School scholarship breakfast. This is the largest amount of scholarship dollars in this school's 77-year history. [Photos are available](#) to view.

The school's annual Back to School Bash held Tuesday, August 29 was a huge success, bringing together faculty, staff and students to kick off the fall semester. [Photos are available](#) to view.



Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Ilitch School is offering three new online modalities, two graduate and one undergraduate:

- [Executive MS in automotive supply chain management](#)
- [MBA program](#)
- [Information Systems Management BA/BS program](#)

#### Faculty news:

Three faculty members from the Mike Ilitch School of Business were selected as distinguished recipients of the [Douglas A. Fraser Center Awards for 2023-2024](#). These research grants are given in recognition of exceptional contributions in the fields of labor studies and workplace issues.

Faculty continue to publish papers in top-tier journals, including:

- [Anand Jha accepted for publication in the Journal of Business, Finance and Accounting](#)
- [Archana Mannem and Andrea Tangari's paper on how brand messaging encourages pro-environmental behavior accepted for publication](#)

#### Student news:

Our students are engaged beyond the classroom and several had interesting sports related internships over the summer, for example:

- [Marketing major Haley Brass scores internship at USA Hockey](#)
- [Juliana Ashrifeh lands summer internship on NASCAR's social media team](#)
- [Sophomore management and marketing major Yasmeen Abdullah has participated in internships at every Detroit major league sports team](#)

#### Alumni news:

##### [Detroit and beyond: Alumna, business owner tackles multicultural marketing](#)

Wayne State University alumna and 2018 recipient of the Mike Ilitch School of Business Emerging Business Leader Award Lydia Michael started her own multicultural marketing and brand consultancy and recently published her book, *Brand Love: Building Strong Consumer-Brand Connections*.

Brittany McGee, a Mike Ilitch School of Business alum [won second place in a stock pitch competition hosted by Start Studio Discovery at Tech Town Detroit](#) and took home \$750 to invest in her company OptimizeEV. Start Studio Discovery is an entry-level program that helps entrepreneurs with tech-based business ideas, test the viability of their technology and do customer discovery in the process.

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

First generation college student, alum, and Board of Visitor member [Kevin Jappaya](#) [shared his story about the leap of faith it took to start his business](#) as his daughter starts her own undergraduate career at the Ilitch School.

## The Law School

### Wayne Law Enrolls Its Strongest Incoming 1L Class Ever

The Law School's climb in the rankings, its growing national stature, and its proven record of success for its graduates all contributed to Wayne Law enrolling its strongest incoming 1L class ever this year. The incoming class of 127 students had a median undergraduate GPA of 3.83 and a median LSAT score of 162. Over 40% of the class self-identifies as persons of color, with over 10% identifying as Black/African American. The Law School achieved these results despite a drop in applications nationwide.

### Faculty Grows in Strength and Diversity

This fall, the Law School welcomes four new full-time faculty members, adding strength and diversity to its ranks. Assistant Professors Zviko Chadambuka, Shannon Phillips, Jami Anderson, and Kelly Pfeifer have expertise and interests across a wide array of legal fields, including law and technology, property law, complex litigation, insurance, critical theory, the philosophy of punishment, business formation, contract drafting, and discovery. Their work will bolster Wayne Law's strengths in business law, legal theory, experiential education, and legal writing. In addition to serving the Law School's J.D. students, these faculty will further sustain and support the expansion of the school's thriving new master's and undergraduate programs.

### Innovative Summer Programs Engage Underrepresented Students on Careers in Law

Law School faculty and staff conceived and hosted two innovative programs this summer to engage native Detroiters and underrepresented students on careers in law and help them to see and experience it as accessible. In mid-July, Wayne Law offered its first **Law and the Real World C2 Pipeline camp**. Fifteen students from area high schools, including Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School in Detroit, Fitzgerald and Lincoln High School in Warren and Center Line High School in Center Line attended sessions in the law school each day for four days. The camp was organized around two themes – business law and Fourth Amendment-related criminal law issues – which students approached through a series of simulations and hands-on activities. Students participated in a simulated employment contract negotiation, debated privacy expectations in schools, navigated an escape room by resolving legal cases, and played

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

law-focused Jeopardy. They also had chances to socialize and network with legal professionals.

The Law School also hosted its third annual **Damon J. Keith Pre-Law Summer Institute** for four weeks in July and August. The program, open to residents of Detroit or graduates of a DPSCD High School, aims to prepare students for admission to and success in law school. The 10-student cohort, which included undergraduates from Wayne State, Oakland, and Michigan State universities, learned legal research and writing, met with attorneys and judges, and received tours of a law firm and Wayne County Circuit court. They attended sessions on law student organizations, the admissions process, clinics and externships, and the student experience; they also participated in a workshop on the financial dimensions of law school. The program's centerpiece was an intensive 30-hour LSAT preparation course taught by Wayne Law faculty and staff, which resulted in a remarkable 3 to 7 point increase in students' practice LSAT scores.

### **The Graduate School**

Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Dean of the Graduate School and professor in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, was recently selected by *Crain's Detroit Business* as a 2023 Notable Leader in Higher Education. The dean joins several other Wayne State University leaders on the 2023 list. The honor recognizes academics at Michigan institutions who are diversifying their schools, raising funds and improving equity for learners of all ages.

The Graduate School's 2023-24 Professional Development Series has returned for its fourth year of full programming, with a slate of nearly 20 in-person and virtual events. The series kicked off with Meet the Dean, a networking event for graduate students across campus as part of the university's Fall Opening in late August. Nearly 100 graduate students and staff from eight Wayne State schools and colleges attended the event.

Cancer Biology Ph.D. student, Abigail Fielder and Thesis Advisor, Assistant Professor Kristen Purrington, have been awarded a prestigious Gilliam Fellowship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). The Gilliam Fellows Program invests in graduate students and their advisers who embody leadership in science and are committed to advancing equity and inclusion in science. The Graduate School applauds this achievement and looks forward to celebrating the future successes of Wayne State graduate students.

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

## **Dean of Students**

As of the end of August, there are 436 registered student organizations. This is the highest number ever at this point in the semester. Last year, there were 302 registered student organizations at the end of August. At the conclusion of the 2022-2023 academic year, there were a total of 609 registered student organizations (the most in the university's history).

The Student Center Maker Space has opened. Located on the Lower Level, this is an arts and crafts room where any member of the Wayne State University can use it for no charge to make signs, posters, buttons, etc.

## **Office for Teaching and Learning**

### **Launch of the new Quality Online Faculty Fellows program**

We at the Office for Teaching & Learning (OTL) are excited about the momentum on campus for face-to-face courses, but we also see an opportunity for equivalent momentum in quality online teaching. Over the summer, in partnership with the Office of the Provost, we launched a new initiative focused on quality in online teaching. Through a blind faculty review, the first cohort of 10 Quality Online Faculty Fellows was selected and the OTL has officially begun onboarding and training. The diverse cohort represents 7 schools or colleges from across campus. Over the next two years, the fellows will mentor colleagues in reviewing their courses using proven rubrics, with the goal of improving student success.

### **New educational developers**

In support of the Quality Online Faculty Fellows program, and to better support the 3,000+ instructors on campus, the OTL is currently in the process of hiring 4 new educational developers thanks to additional funding from the Provost. These hires will bring our team back to numbers held prior to COVID. More staffing will help us continue to provide quality programs, timely educational technology assistance, and expert pedagogical guidance.

### **Ongoing support for faculty responding to ChatGPT and other AI tools**

The OTL responded to the rapid rise of AI last academic year with a special issue of Teaching@Wayne, a page in the Virtual Resource Hub, and two faculty panels—one for STEM instructors and one for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Humanities Center. This academic year, in collaboration with the AI subcommittee of the Academic Senate, we are building on those conversations and have developed workshops to

Submitted By: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

support faculty in responding to these tools in the ways that are best for their classroom.

### **Office of Faculty Affairs and Development**

Over the summer months, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development hosted department chairs at Chair Camp and, with the help of the Provost's Office, facilitated a Dean's Retreat to connect with our Deans and Chairs on issues crucial to administration and shared governance. We hosted 32 new faculty at New Faculty Orientation, where attendees began the process of familiarizing themselves with WSU and heard from representatives of Student Success, Marketing, and many other campus stakeholders.

On August 25, the 5<sup>th</sup> cohort of the Academic Leadership Academy met for the first time at their August Retreat to begin a year of learning and leadership development. The 12 ALA fellows come from departments across the university and will facilitate projects like developing undergraduate minors, student recruiting, and creating medical education initiatives for the wider community.

On Sunday, August 27, our office helped organize the Faculty Fall Opening Brunch for over 225 people, with the help of the Fall Opening Faculty Engagement Committee. Faculty were able to socialize, some with their families included, and helped welcome our new President.

With the Provost's support, we facilitated the purchase of professional development materials from The Chronicle of Higher Education; each department chair was provided with a copy of *A Toolbox for Department Chairs*, a 64-page collection of advice and articles. The Provost also approved funding to send a number of faculty to a one-day leadership bootcamp run by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

With the approval of the Provost, we are finalizing the details of a Community Engagement Award, open to all academic personnel, to be added to the campus awards cycle this Fall.