

Submitted By: Laurie Lauzon Clabo, PhD
Acting 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

Wayne State has been awarded 2024 Fulbright Gateway Orientation for nearly 1,000 Fulbright awardees who will study in the U.S. in the next academic year; Pre-departure Orientation for American Fulbright awardees who will study in the Middle East/North Africa; the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders; and the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program. Each program is sponsored by units within the U.S. Department of State and will occur this summer. The Fulbright programs will be virtual, while Mandela and IYLEP will be on-campus and include participation from many units across campus.

Junior Year in Munich program

JYM is hosting 14 students in the full-year program this academic year. JYM is America's oldest study abroad program in Germany and is affiliated with Germany's top-ranked research university, Ludwig Maximilians Universität München. Wayne State oversees the nationwide program, which this year includes students from WSU, American University, Bates College, Bowdoin College, Carthage College, Georgetown, Grand Valley State, Illinois State, Johns Hopkins, Miami University of Ohio, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Swarthmore, Wheaton College and the College of Wooster.

Office of Educational Outreach

Transfer Student Success Center

The inaugural Transfer Success and Recognition Summit hosted advisors and leaders from 12 community colleges, a Canadian college, and delegates from Michigan Reconnect, Oakland80 and Detroit Drives Degrees. The summit featured program updates and included interactive activities, workshops, and discussions to foster transfer success.

The summit celebrated student success initiatives and leaders with the introduction of the newly established Transfer Champion Awards, presented to:

- **Transfer Advising Champion**, Angel Niederkoehr, M.Ed., Academic Advisor II, Irvin D. Reid Honors College, WSU

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- **Transfer Partnership Champion**, Crystal Brown, M.Ed., District Associate Provost Transfer Education, WCCCD
- **Transfer Champion Award**, School of Social Work

Transfer Admissions Partnership Program

TAPP supports first-year students who were not admitted to Wayne State by providing the opportunity to start at a partner community college and then transfer to WSU. The program began in Fall 2022 with 130 students at with Henry Ford College and WCCCD and is now expanding to additional community colleges. A dedicated transfer advisor works with students in the program and assists them transition to WSU.

Executive and Professional Development

EPD's leadership development program for Wayne County government continues in the new year and will include a new workshop for the county's top executive team. The office will also provide small group coaching to nine emerging leaders at the Michigan Humane Society.

In partnership with Career Services, EPD helped place a speech pathology student in employment at Star Rehab in Flint and is working to fill summer intern positions at DTE. Staff also participated in the Detroit Water and Sewerage's Contractor Workshop with more than 150 businesses, and is working with the City of Detroit and Detroit Economic Growth Corporation/Buy Detroit to participate in 2024 outreach to small businesses looking for growth opportunities in the government marketplace.

Apex Accelerator, part of EPD that offers free government contracting assistance to businesses that want to market products and services to the federal, state, and local governments, provided counseling services to Detroit-based businesses in the government industrial/defense base and held six training sessions to help other small companies that want to pursue government contracts.

Student Success

Undergraduate Admissions

Admissions counselors participated in the City of Detroit 9th Annual Education Fair in December, answering questions about the application and enrollment process, and providing information about the Warrior Way Back, Heart of Detroit and Wayne State Guarantee programs.

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Admitted Student Day programs are slated for Feb. 17 and April 13 to provide admitted students and guests an opportunity to learn more about academic programs and participate in school/college/department activities including mock lectures, lab tours and student panels. Students can take campus walking tours, residence hall tours and eat lunch at the Towers cafeteria. These are the two largest yield events UGA hosts prior to the May 1 Decision Day deadline.

Staff will participate in National Association for College Admission Counseling fairs in Columbus and Cleveland, as well as in west Michigan and metro Detroit during the winter semester.

Career Services

The fall All-Majors In-Person Career Fair drew 463 students and 91 employers, while the virtual fair drew 48 employers who completed 321, one-on-one sessions and 80 group sessions. Other campus fairs included Engineering and Computer Science, School of Business, Meet the Accounting Firms, Supply Chain Networking, College of Nursing, and Pharmacy PharmD. Overall, nearly 400 career-related events were available to students this fall.

Colonel Gregory Gadson Office of Military Veterans Academic Excellence

In honor of Col. Gadson, OMVAE will host a book-signing with the colonel later this month. His book "Finding Waypoints: A Warrior's Journey Toward Peace and Purpose," was released in November. The event includes lunch with Col. Gadson for military-affiliated students, a book reading and discussion, and a reception for students, WSU staff and local military officers.

Student Success initiatives

To signal the importance of early preparation and planning, the team facilitated a week of programming centering on final exam prep that included daylong open coaching sessions, two math intensives with staff from the mathematics department, tutoring, and finals prep planning with the Academic Skills Center. These events also provided opportunities to check in with students on their winter registration status and well-being.

The team is gearing up to welcome 150 new members to the Warrior 360 program in September, launching a recruitment and outreach team of student leaders tasked with connecting with students as they complete their senior year in high school.

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:

Five College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty were [awarded CLAS Teaching Awards in December](#). The annual recognition honors exceptional achievements in education and inspiration in the classroom.

Sarah Haque, a junior neuroscience and honors student, [stood out at the prestigious Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists \(ABRCMS\)](#) in November. Her poster presentation, conducted under the Insolera Lab in the WSU School of Medicine, secured her a top award for junior-level neuroscience entries at the national conference.

Professor Rhonda Y. Williams, Wayne State's Coleman A. Young Chair, gave the [8th Damon J. Keith Biennial Lecture in November](#). The series brings leading scholars and activists to Detroit to address issues of race, civil rights and social justice. Williams is a historian of low-income black women's and marginalized people's experiences, everyday lives, politics and social struggles.

The Wayne State [Humanities Commons debuted its Professors, Poets & Pies](#) event in November. The creative faculty lineup included Natalie Bakhopolos, Robert Laidler and Caroline Maun. The event drew more than 40 students and members of the WSU community.

Two groups totaling 35 students from local nonprofit org [Flip the Script](#) visited Wayne State in November to take part in a comprehensive college campus tour. The groups explored campus and heard from several WSU areas, including the [Crockett-Lumumba Scholars Program](#).

Twenty faculty from across the humanities and social sciences participated in the fourth annual [CLAS grant writing workshop](#). The dynamic workshop was led by peer professors Samuele Zilioi, Jonathan Flatley and Krysta Ryzewski.

Continuing critical discourse around the conflict in Gaza, the [Department of Political Science hosted a lecture and discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in November](#). Associate Professor Nadejda Marinova, Professor Frederic Pearson and Professor Brad Roth lead the talk moderated by Political Science Department Chair Dr. Sharon Lean.

Psychology student [Ghalia Said was the keynote speaker](#) at the college's December 2023 commencement ceremony.

CLAS faculty continue to share their knowledge and expertise with the masses through media opportunities. Ahead of Thanksgiving, [Nutrition and Food Science Professors](#)

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[Diane Cress and Catherine Jen appeared on CBS Detroit](#) to share helpful tips to avoid overeating during the holidays.

Several CLAS units participated in the annual Noel Night holiday celebration at Wayne State. The WSU Planetarium, Grosscup Museum of Anthropology and Lowrie Geology Mineral Museum opened their doors to the public for a night of entertainment and merriment. The Grosscup Museum alone saw more than 500 people walk through its doors to explore its current exhibit, Exiled To Motown: The Japanese American Community in Detroit.

College of Education

IN THE NEWS

Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise and sport science quoted in an Inverse article, "Is Overhydration More Dangerous than Dehydration?"
<https://weather.com/health/news/2023-12-02-honoring-body-and-plate-with-lifestyle-medicine>

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research, was quoted in an article in The Manchester Mirror, "How school of choice affects Manchester and other small districts." <https://themanchestermirror.com/2023/12/11/how-school-of-choice-affects-manchester-and-other-small-districts>

Sarah Kiperman, assistant professor of educational psychology, discussed why ADHD is under diagnosed in women and what viewers can do about it with Kimberly Gill of WDIV-TV 4. <https://www.clickondetroit.com/health/2023/11/28/why-adhd-is-underdiagnosed-in-adult-women-and-what-you-can-do-about-it>

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 Chalkbeat Detroit article, "How Detroit community groups are helping schools chip away at chronic absenteeism." <https://www.chalkbeat.org/detroit/2023/11/28/how-detroit-community-groups-are-helping-schools-chip-away-at-chronic-absenteeism>

GRANTS

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| Principal Investigator | Title | Agency | Amount |
|---|---|---|----------|
| Christine Hancock (Early Childhood Special Education) | Families of Infants and Toddlers Designing Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators | PNC Foundation | \$20,000 |
| Do-Hong Kim (Education Evaluation and Research) | A Matter of Equity 2.0 (Year 2 of 5) | Eastern Michigan University (PRIME: US Dept of Education) | \$21,463 |

APPOINTMENTS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Do-Hong Kim, Ph D, was invited to join the University Research Corridor's (URC) Clearinghouse Agile Group, assembled to advise the URC on a data clearinghouse project around four key areas identified by URC presidents. These four areas include Artificial Intelligence, CHIPS, sustainability, and life/health sciences. The target audience for this clearinghouse includes economic developers, industry leaders and, to some extent, universities. Data will include university metrics in research, innovation, and talent along with broader innovation metrics of the ecosystem and economic indicators for the state.

ALUMNI

Mother Lourdes Fonseca-Nearon and daughter Annelise Nearon earn degrees in counseling and share the stage at commencement

<https://education.wayne.edu/news/commencement-is-a-family-affair-for-mother-and-daughter-in-counseling-program-61283>

Brandon Shamoun, a doctoral student in educational leadership and policy studies, is one of 13 individuals Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed to Michigan's first-ever LGBTQ+ Commission. Assistant dean of student involvement in the Dean of Students Office and co-chair of Wayne State's Queer Employee Organization, Shamoun was selected from approximately 300 applicants. A former teacher, he has been appointed to represent educators and will serve a four-year term that expires in November 2027.

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<https://www.cbsnews.com/detroit/news/gov-gretchen-whitmer-appoints-members-to-michigans-first-lgbtq-commission>

Tracy Boyce received The Legacy of Ubuntu Award from The Soul of Philanthropy Michigan for her efforts to share the stories of Black digital entrepreneurs and to highlight the contributions these Black content creators and educators are making to the profession and practice of instructional design. Ubuntu is a term that means "humanity." A humanist philosophy, ubuntu emphasizes the interconnectedness of humanity and the importance of compassion, empathy, and sharing. Dr. Boyce serves as the associate director of marketing and communication for the College of Education. She received her doctorate in Learning, Design, and Technology in 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Educators Rising Michigan | March 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wayne State University will host the inaugural Educators Rising Michigan Conference and Competition on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Co-sponsored by the College of Education and the Michigan Education Association (MEA), the event will be held in the college, located at 5425 Gullen Mall on the university's main campus in Detroit. Educators Rising is a national initiative for middle and high school students interested in education careers. Participants build the content knowledge and develop skills — including instruction, responsive planning, reflective practice, and data analysis — teachers need through instruction from and interaction with experts and leaders in the education profession. The MEA facilitates Michigan's Educators Rising program.

Next Gen Teachers | July 8-17 and July 22-31

The college will host two sessions of the Next Gen Teachers program this summer. The first session will take place July 8-17, and the second session — which is for students who aspire to be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) teachers — is scheduled for July 22-31. The 10-day, residential college and career readiness initiative is for high school sophomores and juniors from historically underrepresented backgrounds who have a 2.5 minimum GPA and are interested in attending Wayne State. Participants will receive an \$800 stipend and an application fee waiver. They will also be eligible to win a laptop, participate in year-round mentorship, and receive a TEACH grant, Heart of Detroit Tuition Pledge Scholarship, and Michigan Future Educator Fellowship. The Wayne State University College of Education and Michigan Education Association coordinate the Next Gen Teachers program with funding support from the National Education Association, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and General Motors.

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Irvin D. Reid Honors College

The Honors College provided its students with “Home Stretch Strategies” – a program created by an Honors student to help other students with resources and strategies for being successful in the final weeks of the semester. The initiative included an option for interested Honors students to team up with an “Accountabili-Buddy,” another Honors student, and the two help keep each other on-track with assignments, studying, etc. through the final weeks. In addition, several other resource activities were held to provide students other end-of-semester support:

- November 28, 2023: Study Skills Workshop (with emphasis on exam preparation)
- November 30, 2023: CAPS engagement
- December 5, 2023: Mediation event
- December 7, 2023: Therapy dog session

On December 7, 2023, the Honors College celebrated the Honors students who have made significant impact on the Honors community with an Honors Appreciation Dinner. Students were nominated by Honors faculty and staff and recognized for their contributions.

The popular Honors College series “Lunches with Leaders” continues into the Winter 2024 semester. The series connects Honors students with a variety of campus and community leaders over an informal lunch for discussions of careers, community impact, pathways to success and other important issues. Guest speakers for the winter semester are:

- January 23, 2024: Bob Pettapiece, Ed.D., College of Education
- February 27, 2024: Mel Bedi, PharmD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor-Research
- March 19, 2024: Kimberly Espy, Ph.D., President, Wayne State University

The first Honors College Showcase event was held on Wednesday, January 17 in the SCB Ballroom and Hilberry Rooms. This event invites admitted FTIACS who met the criteria for Honors membership and their parents and guests to come to campus and hear more about the Honors experience. The guest students and parents were presented with a welcome and Honors overview from the Honors dean, followed by a panel of current Honors students who reflected on their WSU Honors experience, and then were invited to a selected Resource Fair where they could interact with various schools/colleges, programs, and student services. A virtual Showcase on Zoom was hosted on Tuesday, February 20 for those who were not able to come to campus in January.

The Honors College hosted a special “Honors Night at the Planetarium” on Tuesday, January 23 at the WSU Planetarium in Old Main. The event – held in the evening – was open to Honors students, alumni and donors. The presentation was led by Honors

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Astrophysics student Jacob Callebs. Attendees were able to experience new perspectives of Detroit's evening sky with a guided walkthrough of "The Winter Hexagon" that showcased the six brightest constellations in the Winter sky. The presentation also included a screening of the film, "Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity."

The "Honors Faculty & Friends Open House" was held on Wednesday, February 7 in the Honors College. Faculty who teach Honors courses or provide Honors options for students, as well as faculty mentors for students completing their Honors thesis were invited. Honors was able to show appreciation to faculty who support and mentor students through their Honors experience.

The Wayne Med-Direct Academic Day took place on Saturday, February 24 virtually. The top 25 Wayne Med-Direct applicants (and their guests) were invited to attend to hear more about the WMD program and opportunities, and the students were interviewed by representatives of the WSU School of Medicine, Honors College, CLAS, and Admissions.

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program had a successful accreditation review in mid-November, with only minor changes noted.

The Department of Pharmacy Practice has been involved in national and international outreach. Prof. Linda Jaber was an invited keynote presenter at the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Middle East and North Africa Conference from Nov. 17-19. The event took place in Dubai, with 1,200 professionals in attendance.

The Doctor of Pharmacy program shined at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Annual Meeting Nov. 11-14 in Dallas. Clinical Prof. of Pharmacy Practice Candice Garwood joined the ACCP Board of Regents; Assistant Clinical Prof. of Pharmacy Practice Insaf Mohammad was named Chair of the Ambulatory Care PRN; Assistant Clinical Prof. of Pharmacy Practice Joseph Fava was named Chair-Elect of the new Community-Based PRN; Associate Clinical Prof. of Pharmacy Practice Helen Berlie was named Outstanding Reviewer for Pharmacotherapy; alumnus and Henry Ford Health Preceptor Zach Smith, PharmD '11 became a Fellow; PharmD candidate Obioma Opara was appointed to the ACCP National Student Network Advisory Committee; and five posters were presented with two faculty members involved in symposium.

On Nov. 2, the Physician Assistant Studies program participated in a Special Olympics event at Charles R. Drew Transition Center, a pre-vocational center within the Detroit Public Schools Community District. Also, student Shivani Kondagunta was recently

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presented with the PAEA Future Educator Fellowship and Melanie Corsten was awarded the AAPA-PA Foundation Scholarship as well as the Mike and Gail Donley Spouse Scholarship.

Assistant Clinical Prof. of Radiation Therapy Technology Alisa Kagen was awarded a Faculty Teaching Travel Grant for her work "Alternative modalities of teaching with student engagement."

Associate Prof. of Physical Therapy Nora Fritz gave two invited talks in Belgium — at the Neurological Institute in Brussels and at the European Huntington Association meeting in Blankenberge. The program also saw multiple publications accepted into scientific journals.

The Michigan Occupational Therapy Association awarded the honor of Fellow to Occupational Therapy Program Director Doreen Head and Assistant Clinical Prof. of OT Regina Parnell.

The college hosted a Mortuary Science Building open house on Nov. 9. Free and open to the public, the annual event showcased the Medical Laboratory Science, Mortuary Science and Pathologists' Assistant programs. Students, staff and faculty guided members of the community, prospective students and alumni through the four-story building, which houses the most advanced teaching and research resources in pathology, anatomy, embalming, restorative arts and medical laboratory science.

The Office of Student Affairs is planning a college-wide open house on April 11, inviting prospective students, families and members of the community to tour the Applebaum Building as WSU Applebaum celebrates 100 years of pharmacy education in the heart of Detroit and 50 years of housing both a PharmD program as well as a variety of professional health sciences programs to maximize interprofessional education opportunities.

School of Social Work

Center for Behavioral Health and Justice:

- The CBHJ operates 22 projects across six different initiatives with community partners in 39 counties across Michigan and a total operating budget of \$2.8 million.
- A recent study found that individuals who received clinical responses to mental health crises (i.e., mobile crisis, co-response) had fewer arrests per person in the following year than those who received law enforcement responses. This is the

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first finding substantiating long-term jail diversion benefits of crisis response models.

- The CBHJ's AOT team developed a Framework for assisted outpatient treatment Implementation that has been adopted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Mental Health Diversion Council as a formidable framework for new legislative funding and embraced by CMH administrators across the state to guide implementation and formalization of AOT within their communities.
- The CBHJ [received a \\$330,000 collaborative grant](#) from four local foundations — Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and the Herrick Foundation — to improve crisis response programs locally and nationally.

Training:

- Professor Bridget Weller has obtained funding for 5 years totaling \$3.2 million to support the [Detroit Tri-County Social Work Health Career Opportunity Academy](#). The Academy supports the matriculation, retention and graduation of community college and university students from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds who seek to pursue health care careers. This program provides tailored academic, economic and social support to community college allied health and bachelor of social work students while simultaneously training community-based experiential health professionals. Additionally, participating students qualify for \$4,200 in stipends and scholarships.

College of Engineering

Ulrike Klueh, associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and in the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors at Wayne State, has received a \$2.65 million award from the National Institutes of Health to develop a novel filtration platform to improve an advanced drug delivery device to optimize diabetes insulin treatments. Subcutaneous insulin administration (SIA) has improved significantly over the past two decades, but SIA technology failure and underlying tissue damage have impeded its progress and caused experts to advise on limiting the wear time and rotating the site of the SIA device. Klueh's team of scientists will use the funding to extend the lifespan of these infusion pumps or injection ports.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) awarded \$870,000 in training grants to 20 nonprofit organizations statewide to strengthen worker safety and health. Among those funded is a project led by Mumtaz Usman, professor emeritus

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of civil and environmental engineering at Wayne State; and Emrah Kazan, a WSU alumnus and former faculty member who is now an associate professor and director of the construction management technology program at Monroe County Community College. They are developing new mental health and awareness training tools for construction companies in Michigan. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the construction industry has the second-highest suicide rate in the U.S.

Ece Yaprak, chair and professor of engineering technology at Wayne State, has been elected to serve on the ABET Board of Directors for a three-year term as the Engineering Technology Area Director (ETAD). Yaprak will act as the voice for engineering technology on the board — comprised of 13 members including three other area directors — and manage ETAD communications with the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission. Accreditation is a high priority for the College of Engineering, as nine of its undergraduate programs have earned ABET accreditation, assuring confidence that Wayne State is meeting standards essential to preparing graduates to enter their respective professions. Yaprak possesses a deep understanding of ABET's processes and advocacy for accreditation that makes her an important resource for the college's leaders and committee members.

Mike Ilitch School of Business

College

- The Mike Ilitch School of Business is partnering with Share Detroit to host [first annual Non-Profit Consulting Day](#) on Friday, January 26. The event will include a keynote address from Carlynn D. Nichols, Chief Clinical Officer at [The Children's Center](#) on strategic planning for non-profits, after which the attending institutions will participate in consulting sessions with faculty led Ilitch School students discussing issues, problems and solutions for these significant community leaders.
- The Ilitch School will host "[The future of venture capital in Detroit forum](#)" on February 16. A keynote speaker, two panel discussions, breakfast and networking will be on the agenda for this event hosted in the school's Lear Auditorium.

Faculty

In the news:

- [Cyber Monday scams are afoot, here's what an expert says we need to know--with Alex Davidson](#)
- [Could UPS and FedEx get holiday packages to their destinations faster? This research suggests yes--by Toyin Clottey](#)

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

- [Mai Iskandar-Datta accepted for publication in the Journal of Financial Stability](#)
- [Attila Yaprak accepted for publication in the Journal of Business Research](#)
- [Alex Davidson and Scott Tainsky accepted for publication in Sport Management Review](#)

Students

- Brooklyn Coby Jackson, Ilitch School marketing student and [local businesswoman, showcases athleisure brand Formfit Clothing](#)
- [2023 Stock Pitch Competition gives students "one of the most valuable things I've had since I've been back to school," says Vernon Priest, half of winning team](#)



Community

- [The Business Springboard Pathway at the Ilitch School hosts their second annual Shark Tank Competition](#)

The Law School

Undergraduate and Graduate Law Programs Thriving

The Law School Launched two new non-JD programs this fall: the undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Law and a Health Law concentration in the Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.) program. The B.A. in Law prepares students for emerging employment opportunities in a variety of fields, or graduate studies in law school, with a strong foundation in law, critical thinking and writing, theory, and justice systems. Likewise, the Health Law concentration prepares health professionals to better spot and engage with legal questions as they navigate regulatory requirements and manage risk. To date, the new graduate and undergraduate programs have collectively enrolled nearly 600

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students: 400+ in the Minor in Law, over 100 in the M.S.L., and 137 in the B.A. in Law after just its first semester, 99 of whom are new to WSU.

Wayne Law Faculty Present at 2024 Annual AALS Meeting

Seven Wayne Law faculty members featured on panels during this year's AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. They covered topics including the future of reproductive justice, poverty law pedagogy, mental health parity, the Israel-Gaza War, and labor strikes. Speakers included Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Nancy Chi Cantalupo; Assistant Professor and Director of Externships Dan Ellman; Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education Rebecca Robichaud; Associate Professor Heather Walter-McCabe; Clinical Programs Manager and staff attorney Jane Warkentin; Professor Brad Roth; and Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development Michael Oswald.

Levin Center Secures Major State Funding

The Levin Center welcomed a \$4 million investment from the State of Michigan to greatly expand its offerings and reach. The funding will propel the Center's Learning by Hearings: Inside the Classroom program, which provides educators with innovative lesson plans and materials to bring principles of accountable government to life in high school civics and history classes across the country. It also will help support the Center's State Oversight Academy (SOA), which hosted a "Legislators and Academics in Dialogue" symposium in November in which oversight scholars presented working papers for feedback from experienced practitioners currently serving elected state lawmakers. The Center also continues to grow its strong Washington, DC presence, from Director Jim Townsend's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Congressional Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights, to its Oversight Boot Camps for congressional staff and summer internships on the hill for Wayne Law students.

Winter Wishes Program Serves Families for 10th Consecutive Year

The Winter Wishes program is in its tenth year of helping clients of Wayne Law's Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic. This year's program, from November 13-December 1, brought in over 350 brand new items including necessities like winter clothes, blankets, gift cards, toys, and kitchen essentials. Fourteen families, including 14

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children and 25 adults (the most recipients in program history), had a brighter holiday season thanks to the generosity of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of WSU's Law School and School of Social Work.

The Graduate School

The Graduate School will host its annual Graduate Research Symposium on Wednesday, Feb. 28 in the Student Center. This is the first time the Symposium will be held face-to-face since 2020, with nearly 200 graduate student researchers and postdoctoral scholars scheduled to present. The Symposium celebrates the brilliant research being conducted here at Wayne State. We look forward to bringing the Graduate School's flagship event back to a live audience in 2024.

Dean of Students

Now in its 20th year as a twice yearly campus tradition, the Finals Week Late Night Breakfast Study Break was held on Wednesday, December 13 from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. 1,055 students were in attendance having "breakfast" served to them by guest faculty and staff servers including President Espy and Acting Provost Clabo and enjoying an arts and crafts break, music, and fellowship.

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

For the second year in a row, Professor Monika Sinclair facilitated a class project with Shinola. Fashion Merchandising II students presented their final fall semester projects to Shinola at their headquarters in Detroit. Students presented their brand/product internationalization concepts to the executive team. Just last year, a student from this class presented to Shinola. She is now a full-time employee working in their headquarters as a Wholesale Account Coordinator.

Interpublic Group recently announced the expansion of its Motor City Marketing and Communications Fellowship, a jobs program exclusively associated with IPG's Detroit-based communications and marketing companies supporting client General Motors. This includes Weber Shandwick, MRM, McCann, Jack Morton Worldwide, and Commonwealth//McCann.

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Now in its third year, the Motor City Marketing and Communications Fellowship will continue to recruit applicants specifically from Detroit-based institutions, including Wayne State University. Dedicated to growing relationships with educational institutions across Detroit, the program plays a key role in engaging local talent, facilitating career development, and cultivating collaborative learning.

One of the most important national journalism conferences of 2024 is coming to Detroit this spring, and Wayne State University's Department of Communication and Detroit Public Television are helping to plan and host it. The annual Collaborative Journalism Summit, organized by Montclair State University's Center for Cooperative Media, will be held May 9-10, 2024, on Wayne State's campus and will attract journalists from across the country.

Kelly Young, Ph.D., associate dean of Wayne State University's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, was recently awarded the American Forensic Association's Distinguished Service Award. The AFA Distinguished Service Award recognizes long-term service to American intercollegiate competitive speech and debate communities and argumentation scholarship that has a positive impact on the field — such as current research and educational practices, community development, and consideration of career as a model for AFA professionals.

WDET

To lift President Espy's College to Careers movement, WDET successfully graduated 25 interns in 2023 who enhanced their job readiness in the fields of audio engineering, journalism, marketing, graphic design, photojournalism, digital media, events management, and financial services. Winter semester applications are being processed and interviewed by professional broadcast staff. WDET interns are landing better permanent jobs with the WDET internship experience on their resumes since we enhanced the internship experience in 2022.

On February 5, 2024, WDET will make numerous programming changes adding more local programming and much more music consistent with the findings of the station's listener survey conducted in the summer of 2023. The changes will increase local Detroit content by 100% taking the station from 60 hours of local programming each week to over 100 hours each week.

On February 13, 2024, WDET will celebrate its 75th Anniversary with an event for members. All the new and current program hosts will be present to meet members and

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talk about the new shows and WDET's future focus. All BOG members will be invited so please save the date for a 5-7 pm event on 2/13/24.

The WDET News Team has compiled a broad and expanded plan for political and election coverage in 2024. To date, three donors concerned about threats to democracy from misinformation have made significant donations to the station to help fund the work and balanced reporting.

WDET events are emerging as a significant community engagement opportunity for WSU and the station. On December 1st over 250 people gathered at the Motown Mansion in a joint fundraiser for WDET and the Concert of Colors. Guests were part of a live broadcast of the Don Was Motor City Playlist. The next day, 560 people visited WDET, took tours, recorded testimonials, and sipped cocoa during Noel Night.

WDET will once again embrace National Public Radio's "Tiny Desk" contest to elevate local musical talent to a national stage. Last year over 110 local performers entered the national contest in Q1 and were further highlighted in WDET's "Sounds Like Detroit Musical Showcase" helping the station fulfill its mission to lift local, underheard voices in all aspects of community life.