

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

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### **College of Engineering**

A team of researchers led by Ulrike Klueh, associate professor of biomedical engineering, received a nearly \$2.7 million grant from the NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for the study, "Infusion device optimization by addressing root causes of the inflammatory response." The goal of the project is to reduce the toxicity and potential for tissue injury caused by preservatives intended to prolong the shelf life of commercially available insulin formations.

Researchers from Wayne State University and the University of Nevada Las Vegas are collaborating on an NSF-funded project that aims to improve predictability and multitasking in safety-critical computing systems, such as autonomous vehicles, that have strict timing requirements; for instance, processing sensor data to avoid collisions. Nathan Fisher and Abusayeed Saifullah from the Department of Computer Science are the principal investigators on behalf of Wayne State, which received \$570,016 of a total \$1,175,341, four-year grant. UNLV's investigators are Corey Tessler and Prashant Modekurthy, both of whom received their doctorates in computer science from Wayne State.

The Michigan Translational Research and Commercialization (MTRAC) Innovation Hub for Advanced Computing Technologies and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) awarded \$100,000 to a Wayne State research team led by Sean Wu, distinguished professor of mechanical engineering. Their project has the potential to fundamentally change how sound sources are detected and located, with applications ranging from machinery noise control to military operations. Wu and his team will build and test a series of prototypes for LaSonics, a patent-pending laser-assisted technology that enables one to hear and see through a solid enclosure to precisely locate the sound sources inside.

#### **School of Social Work Center for Behavioral Health and Justice**

The CBHJ has continued to expand its collaborations across Michigan and currently operates 20 projects across six different research initiatives involving 27 counties.

The CBHJ launched the Crisis Response Community of Practice, a monthly meeting to bring together partners of crisis response teams across the state. The goal is to provide connections between crisis response teams to share ideas, best practices, barriers, solutions, stressors, stories, and lessons learned.

In partnership with the Wayne County Third Circuit Court, the CBHJ is working to develop and implement a disposition matrix to support judges in making decisions about the most appropriate level of services for adjudicated youth.

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The Assisted Outpatient Treatment toolkit, which aims to promote recovery for people with untreated mental health issues and reduce harmful behavior, hospitalization, and emergency room use, hosted a webinar providing information and resources to family members of and advocates for people with mental illness. The session had nearly 100 participants.

**Faculty:**

Assistant Professor Luisa Kcomt received a grant subaward of more than \$120,000 from the National Institutes of Health. This work will inform intervention and treatment efforts for alcohol misuse, with the ultimate goal of reducing alcohol-related health disparities among sexual minority individuals.

Wayne State University investigators with expertise in Social Work, Anthropology, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Communication, and Environmental Science will collaborate with the Eastside Community Network, Jefferson East, Inc., and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan to ensure that residents who have faced racial and economic discrimination have the information and resources needed to prepare for and respond to climate change induced flooding. Social Work Associate Dean for Research and Professor, Richard Smith, is the principal investigator for this project, which will use technology to improve recovery from and preparation for persistent and increasing severe basement flooding that impacts homes in Eastside Detroit.

A team of WSU researchers co-lead by Social Work Assistant Professor Bryan Victor will collaborate with MDHHS's Children's Services Agency and Bureau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy, the State Court Administrative Office and local courts to provide resources to families that aim to keep them together safely and prevent trauma. The team will develop a statewide and local infrastructure to implement and expand the Safe Babies Court Team approach – a program that aims to reduce the time a child spends in foster care before going to a permanent, safe home. The team will also work to advance partnerships across systems and programs that will support the well-being and health of children.

**Students:**

Social Work and Anthropology (SWAN) doctoral student Seth Allard became the university's first-ever recipient of a prestigious four-year Health Policy Research Scholars Program fellowship funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Allard will be pursuing interdisciplinary and transcultural research on chronic health issues, specifically related to suicide and mental health, within the military and Native American communities.

Social Work and Anthropology (SWAN) doctoral student Kathryn Wright received the Shirley Brice Heath Travel Stipend Award from the Council on Anthropology and Education to present on her research focus of social relations among students within the classroom, and how these relations influence the students' sense of identity and personhood. Understanding this should help to better integrate students with disability into the larger school and chip away at ableist stigma against disability.

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### **Community Engagement:**

This academic year we have been proud to host an open, honest and powerful three-part series focused on environmental justice. The series has allowed us to take an in-depth look at environmental justice on a national and local Detroit scale, and include student, alumni and community speakers. Our final event will occur on March 23<sup>rd</sup> "A Call to Action: The Fight for Environmental Justice in Detroit" and spotlight the advocacy efforts of local Detroit experts in the environmental justice ecosystem. We hope participants leave with tangible ways in which they can advocate for a just society and empower social change in their communities. Learn more at [go.wayne.edu/enviro-justice](http://go.wayne.edu/enviro-justice)

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

This fall, CLAS kicked off a tutoring program for K-12 students at Detroit's Durfee Innovation Center. The program, a partnership with the Detroit United Lacrosse, connects WSU students with the community to provide tutoring in everything from math to English.

Wayne State's Geology Mineral Museum was recently named in honor of David J. Lowrie, its beloved curator. An [endowed gift made by Lowrie and his wife Barbara](#) will ensure the museum is enjoyed by generations to come.

In November, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences hosted the University of Windsor to celebrate our [joint Regional Center of Expertise in Urban Sustainability \(RCE\) with the United Nations](#) in person. The two universities have been collaborating on the RCE remotely since it was awarded in April 2022.

Thanks to the college's continued partnership with Michigan Science Center, WSU students enjoyed a game night at the Midtown museum complete with arcade games, virtual reality machines and e-sports. CLAS faculty will continue their science education programming at the museum on the first Saturday of each month.

In November, the Department of Anthropology co-hosted Hamtramck Archaeology Day in partnership with the Hamtramck Historical Museum. The event invited the public to explore artifacts from local digs and learn about ongoing archaeological projects.

The Frontiers Chemistry Seminar continues to highlight dynamic speakers and topics. Most recently, the Department of Chemistry hosted [York University's Paul Walton](#) for a talk on Gender Issues in the Academy and WSU's own Ashley Flintoff spoke on creating accessible campuses.

Last semester, Nutrition and Food Sciences' Diane Cress penned the second most-read article of the year for The Conversation. The [piece focuses on the consequences of B12 deficiency](#) and what you can do about it.

CLAS welcomed the [return of Noel Night](#) after a two-year hiatus. The Grosscup and Lowrie Geology Mineral Museums held open houses while the Department of Physics and Astronomy

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offered science demos, telescope viewing and planetarium shows. Students also volunteered for the event through Midtown Detroit Inc.

For her unwavering commitment and determined efforts in advocating for women on campus, [Dr. Krista Brumley was named the 2022 recipient of the Wayne State Warriors of Distinction Employee award](#), presented by the President's Commission on the Status of Women and the Career Development Committee. The award is given annually to a WSU employee who demonstrates a sustained commitment to women and/or issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Physics professor [Renee Ludlam](#) was [awarded two grants by NASA for her work on low-mass X-ray binaries](#). The first called "Herding StrayCats: A study of neutron star low-mass X-ray binaries with NuSTAR stray light" awards her \$370k to explore data taken with a novel operation of the [NuSTAR](#) telescope.

The CLAS Dean's Office recently hosted a faculty grant writing seminar focused on the physical sciences. The seminar offered peer support and guided faculty through the entire grant writing process.

In an effort to increase training opportunities for students, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders [launched a new acute care simulation room](#) in November. The Simulation Lab was funded by a generous gift from the Baiardi Family Foundation.

The Department of Physics recently hosted [the inaugural Barber-Naik Endowed Lecture in Interdisciplinary Physics](#). The talk was presented by Professor Chris Kelly and was attended by benefactors Ratna & Vaman Naik.

CLAS's Educational Transition Coordination Program continues to bolster justice-impacted families. Lead by [Terrell Topps, the unique prison-to-higher ed program has admitted 10 students](#) to WSU in recent months, including six with merit scholarships.

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

On January 24 and 26, 2023, the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences will bring together 300 students and dozens of faculty members from all its programs for an interprofessional education case study experience. Now in its third year, this annual program teaches students how to collaborate across disciplines to provide a higher standard of patient care, an essential skill they will need as future practitioners.

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Associate Professor of Physical Therapy Joseph Roche won first place in the pitch competition held at the 9th Annual International Symposium on Regenerative Rehabilitation. The event was hosted by the NIH-supported Alliance for Regenerative Rehabilitation Research and Training (AR3T) in Austin, TX, in October 2022. The competition, funded by AR3T, was designed to support novel directions in regenerative rehabilitation research.

The college awarded degrees to 75 students in December, including Master of Occupational Therapy, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice, PharmD, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Second-year student pharmacist Shannon Habba attended the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Midyear Regional Meeting in Cincinnati, where she represented Wayne State University as chapter president. In December, PharmD students, faculty and alumni attended the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Las Vegas, where student duo Jewel Konja and Kelly Kepley placed in the top 10 of the national clinical skills competition. Wayne State's Mu Omicron Pi chapter of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity recently sent a delegation to the Great Lakes Province Fall Assembly in Cincinnati, bringing home awards for Best Attendance and Best Chapter Report.

The college's Board of Visitors welcomed Radiation Therapy Technology alumnus Charles M. Washington '87 as its newest member. Washington is the senior director of radiation oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

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

As part of a continuing series for students, "Honors Authors," a special event developed to showcase the recent publications by Honors faculty, featured Honors faculty Dr. Beth Fowler. This installment of the series was held on November 15 in the Community Room of the UGL and showcased Dr. Fowler's recently published book, *Rock and Roll, Desegregation Movements, and Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era*.

A popular lunchtime series for students has returned to Honors – "Lunch with Leaders" began a new season for the fall semester. Campus leaders are invited to talk with Honors students about their roles, backgrounds, academic histories, and research interests. A lunch is provided for all participants. Honors welcomed Dean Hasan Elahi (CFPCA) in October, and on November 17 featured Dean Ali Abolmaali (Engineering) for this open conversation and luncheon with Honors students.

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Honors College in partnership with the Honors Student Association created a "Gratitude Wall" in the Honors College space (2100 UGL) and provided colorful paper leaves for students (and staff and faculty) to share the things they were

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most grateful for. The event kicked off on November 16 and leaves adorned the large glass wall in Honors for the month of November.

The Irvin D. Reid Honors College hosted an Honors Open House for faculty and friends of the college on December 6. The event showed appreciation for those who have taught Honors courses, as well as those who have helped support Honors students and programs through their various roles across campus.

The Honors College and Honors Student Association hosted an "Honors Study Day" on December 14, which made the large multi-purpose room in Honors available for group or individual study. Refreshments were also provided for students preparing for final exams and projects.

### **Housing & Residential Life:**

Our 2023-2024 Housing Application opened on January 4. We are excited to offer a \$1,000 incentive for current residents to return to a residence hall community for next year.

Warrior Meal Share program – 113 meals were donated and several dining cards are still available for students in need at the W Pantry.

FYRE Overnight Orientation will continue for Summer 2023

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

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

More students have received competitive national fellowships this year than at any time in the history of Wayne State, including a Rangel Graduate Fellowship and a Marshall Scholarship, both valued at more than \$100,000.

The [Office of Fellowships](#), part of OIP, works with students on the application process and preparing for interviews. Awards received include [Fulbright Student Program Awards](#), part of the flagship international academic exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; [Critical Language Scholarships](#) and the [Rangel Graduate Fellowship](#), both programs of the State Department; the [Boren Award](#), an initiative of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office within the U.S. Department of Defense; and the ultra-competitive [Marshall Scholarship](#), sponsored by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission in London, England.

Only 40 Marshall Scholarships were awarded nationwide, and Wayne State student Aaron Keathly is the only awardee in Michigan, and the first Wayne State recipient in the 70-year history of the program. Student Ibrahim (Abe) Ahmad, one of more than 900 applicants nationwide, received the Rangel Fellowship for prospective foreign service officers from underrepresented groups.

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Each program provides funding for post-grad international study and research, or teaching English abroad, and are among the most sought-after awards in the world.

Wayne State University has been selected for the fourth time as the exclusive host for 2023 Fulbright Pre-Departure Orientation for American awardees who will study in the Middle East/North Africa. The virtual program will take place in June and July, and include about 35 awardees. The program is managed by OIP on behalf of the university.

In celebration of International Education Week, the Center for Student Global Engagement in OIP hosted 13 events for students, faculty and staff to highlight the benefits of international education. Events were both in-person and online, allowing everyone a chance to participate in the activities, which included presentations on fellowships that provide funding for international study; the value of volunteering with the Peace Corps; and tips to make language-learning easier. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, and focuses on preparing American students to succeed in a global environment.

### **Educational Outreach**

The university launched a new agreement with Henry Ford College to increase the number of transfer students enrolling at Wayne State after receiving their associate degree. The special public announcement included President Wilson, Henry Ford President Russell Kavalhuna and several students who shared their HFC-WSU transfer stories.

Students who participate in the Henry Ford Learn4ward/Wayne State Transfer Pathways program will follow specific steps and course plans while pursuing their associate degree, limiting the potential loss of credits when they transfer and receiving guaranteed admission to WSU. They will also receive personalized advising and be eligible for scholarships. Henry Ford is traditionally among the top three feeder schools to Wayne State.

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

Wayne State University is grateful for the Blumenstein Family Foundation's gift benefiting the Transfer Student Success Center summer internship pilot program. Through this gift, the TSSC was able to award \$2,000 to 10 transfer students to help cover tuition or other expenses while they completed their internship. This program is another step toward removing financial barriers for transfer students.

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

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EPD provided a week of training for about 50 staffers in the UAW Chrysler EAP Specialist Certificate Program. The EPD staff also developed and delivered a workshop focused on high performing teams for the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers and Finance Officers, which trained approximately 20 government employees as part of EPD's ongoing relationship with NACCTFO and its continuing education program.

### **Undergraduate Admissions**

For Fall 2023, 12,409 FTIAC applications had been received by mid-December. Of those, 7,261 students were admitted, which is an increase of 8% over last year. During this same period, 665 transfer applications had been received (an increase of 7%) and 219 have been admitted.

A new applicant and admitted student portal will launch in January with enhanced features for applicants and admits to keep track of their outstanding admission requirements and new student next steps.

### **Office of Student Financial Aid**

All WSU students can now login to ScholarshipUniverse, the university's new scholarship awarding platform. Through this new tool, students can find external scholarship opportunities they are eligible for and complete their applications. The 2023-2024 academic year will be the first year WSU has used this system with the goal of increasing the amount of endowed, annual and external scholarships WSU students receive. This will not only help our students, but also fulfill the promises to our generous donors. In addition, OSFA staff have been working with the individual schools, colleges and departments to inventory our endowed and annual funds for the 2023-24 academic year and add these to ScholarshipUniverse. More than 900 scholarship applications had been completed by mid-December.

### **Warrior 360**

Warrior 360 has officially moved to F/AB, consolidating services from three buildings into one space and making it easier for students to take advantage of the various supports it offers. This move is temporary while we complete the broader consolidation of all of our student services and success programs in the Undergraduate Library, which is planned to be completed this year.

125/184 students have either connected or been engaged with their Success Coach this semester; 73 students are engaged and active with their coach and have met with their professional support one-on-one more than four times; and 52 students are connected with their coach and have met with their professional support one-on-one between two and four times this semester



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### **Career Services**

The office celebrated National Career Development month in November to promote career readiness and hosted workshops, employer networking events and sponsored professional photographers to provide headshot photography for students, alumni and staff for LinkedIn and/or social media profiles. The team also partnered with WSU Human Resources, WSU Community Affairs and the City of Detroit to support the Career Expo.

### **Student Disability Services (SDS)**

SDS served 361 new students and 738 returning students with disabilities during Fall 2022. During final exam week, the team administered 50-100 exams each day of the five-day period, collaborating with many liaisons on campus who volunteer their time to make this service go smoothly.

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

This month, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development is focusing on compiling applications for the various awards administered by the Provost's office and forming awards committees, which will begin meeting in the coming weeks. Monthly chair chats and associate dean chats will continue, and we are scheduling out our winter professional development programming, which will include sessions tailored to new faculty, associate professors, academic staff, and a return of our series of informational panels on the promotion and tenure process.

### **Office of Teaching & Learning (OTL)**

During the fourth quarter of 2022, the Office of Teaching & Learning (OTL), whose mission it is to support the teaching development of all instructors on campus focused on access to resources and amplifying student voices.

To meet faculty where they are, the OTL continued to update the [Virtual Resource Hub](#) which is based in Canvas and available 24/7 with new topics and guides. Each week they published either a [Monday Morning Teaching Bites](#) or [Faculty Teaching Highlight](#) directly to the faculty via email. Some examples of recent topics include "Saving time Grading", "Assessing your Students (Elizabeth McQuillen), and "The Classroom as a Safe Space".

The OTL panel series, in partnership with the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE), continued amplifying the needs of underrepresented groups on campus. During the panels students share their experiences on campus and how faculty can support their success. In the fall semester panels were held for Muslim students, students who are veterans, international students, and LGBTQ+ students.

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## Law School

### ***Lawyering in the Nation's Capital Program Enters its Second Year***

Four Wayne Law students have just embarked on a Winter semester in Washington, D.C. in the second year of the Law School's popular *Lawyering in the Nation's Capital* program, a collaboration between the Law School's Externship Program, Levin Center, and Keith Center. This year, the students will extern at the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Advancement Project while studying in a concurrent on-site colloquium course that explores the many facets of the Washington, D.C. lawyer.

### ***New Peer Mentorship Program Launches with Grant Funding***

In cooperation with the Wayne Law Development Office, the Student Affairs Office secured funding from the Holbrook Foundation for a new peer mentoring program designed to help first-year students acclimate to life as a law student. The Holbrook Foundation also continues to fund bar preparation programming, which contributed again to our strong bar results on the July 2022 Michigan bar exam, with 84% of Wayne Law first time takers passing compared to 76% statewide. The new peer mentorship program will specifically focus on student wellness and building community at the Law School.

### ***Holistic Defense Partnership Highlighted as a Model of Interdisciplinary Collaboration***

The academic and legal services are taking great interest in Wayne Law's innovative Holistic Defense Partnership with the School of Social Work. At the Externships 11 Conference—a bi-annual nationwide conference that brings together the leaders of externship programs from around the country—Wayne Law and the School of Social Work presented on how other schools might develop similar programs. Wayne Law and the School of Social Work were invited guests at the Michigan Defender Convening, which brings together the directors of public defense offices and criminal justice advocacy groups in Michigan. As the only academic institution invited to participate, they shared how the Holistic Defense Partnership prepares students to be effective advocates and built relationships to grow and strengthen the program.

### ***Levin Center Expands its Work***

The Levin Center continues grow its national footprint. A new \$100,000 grant from the Ralph Wilson Jr. Foundation will support the Center's civic education work with the development and deployment of a model oversight hearing high school curriculum. The grant will fund a Civic Education Specialist to create and roll out curriculum modules in Michigan school districts and beyond. The Center added five new portraits to its "[Portraits in Oversight](#)" series. The Portraits are short but detailed profiles of past Congressional investigations and key figures in the history of legislative oversight that have shaped the American story from 1792. It also continued to

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directly support oversight research at the national level with its competitive research awards. Professor Dave Rapallo of Georgetown University Law Center won the 2022 Levin Center Award for Excellence in Oversight Research and Professors Christina Kinane of Yale University and Josh McCrain of the University of Utah were selected as the 2022 Levin Center Oversight Fellows.