UNIVERSITY REPORT
September 13, 2024

Division of Academic Affairs

Applebaum

Dr. Nora Fritz, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy**,** was named deputy editor of the *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy* and was awarded the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers ARTY Award for Best Practices in Neurorehabilitation. From Fritz's Neuroimaging and Neurorehabilitation Lab, PhD candidate **Taylor Takla** received an NIH grant to study fear of falling in MS patients.

CFPCA

Wayne State University's presence is felt broadly among this year's Kresge Artist Fellows and Gilda Award recipients. Warriors among the 2024 class include Dr. **Juanita Anderson**, Professor, Department of Communication; **Alesyn McCall**, Supervisor of Promotions and Outreach, Department of Theatre and Dance**;** and **Maurice Draughn**, alumnus, Department of Music. **Hannah Fahoome**, alumna, Department of Communication, earned a Gilda Award in film and music. A celebration for all of the 2024 Kresge Artist Fellows and Gilda Award recipients was held on campus in July at the Hilberry Gateway. **Read more about this year's Warrior winners**.

On Wayne State University's campus, the ArtWalk transforms the grounds into a vibrant outdoor gallery. These captivating installations highlight the university's dedication to fostering creativity, celebrating diversity and engaging with the community in a dynamic and inspiring way. Wayne State's campus now features 30 outdoor art sculptures, with the recent addition of three installations. What makes these sculptures unique is their origin: Each piece, along with the entire campus art collection, has been generously donated to the university.

Since 2007, WSU's Department of Music has partnered with the Detroit Jazz Festival to create Jazz Week@Wayne, an immersive one-week workshop for high school students to explore jazz. Renamed J.C. Heard JazzWeek@Wayne in 2012 to honor the jazz legend's legacy, this program offers a comprehensive jazz education at no cost, attracting students annually through

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auditions. The week-long workshop is a blend of formal training and hands-on experience, including masterclasses and performances. The group of students will be featured at the upcoming Detroit Jazz Festival on Labor Day weekend.

CLAS

In July, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences led the third annual J Dilla Music Tech Teaching Workshop in partnership with CFPCA and the Save the Music Foundation. The workshop invited dozens of K-12 music teachers to WSU for a workshop focusing on music technology in the classroom. Teachers from metro Detroit public school districts received an introduction to modern music production pedagogy led by WSU Department of Music faculty and used software and equipment in the J Dilla Music Tech Grant. Also included were activities outside of the classroom -- a trip to the Motown Museum, a welcome reception, and a roundtable discussion with prominent Detroit music industry professionals and artists.

From conducting archaeological excavations in Ecuador to geology field camps in France, CLAS faculty and students have spent their summers traveling across the globe in search of knowledge. Track their studies on the 2024 CLAS Across the Globe Research Map.

On July 25, CLAS celebrated National Intern Day with a series of stories on hardworking students who conducted internships in Detroit and beyond. One such story highlighted history and sociology double major **Arial Greene**. Entering her senior year and beginning her master's in history through Wayne State's AGRADE program, Greene has taken on a pivotal role as coordinator of the CLAS Warrior United Tutoring Program, helping Detroit K-12 students achieve academic success. CLAS supports more than two dozen interns each academic year.

Education

Detroit PEER (Partnership for Education Equity Research) Center under the direction of **Dr. Sarah Lenhoff,** Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, has secured a $1.2M grant to support equity projects in school diversity and educational outcomes, the impact of mixed-income neighborhoods on the reduction of educational inequality for low-income Black youth, and the promise of integrated neighborhoods and schools.

The Community Health Workers Academy and initiative under the direction of **Dr. Nate McCaughtry,** Professor, Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies, and Assistant Dean has received a $1.5M grant from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to support the Neighborhood Wellness Center Initiative.

Engineering

The College of Engineering has announced the renewal of its Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site: Summer Academy in Sustainable Manufacturing, supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Since its inception in 2016, this program, led by **Dr. Jeremy Rickli**, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, and **Dr. Yinlun Huang**, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, has successfully trained more than 60 students from across the U.S., many of whom have gone on to pursue advanced degrees or careers in engineering and sustainability-focused industries. The renewed funding from the NSF, a $438,627 grant, will allow Wayne State to continue offering this experience to students for another three years.

The Great Lakes Water Authority, which provides water to more than 40% of Michigan's population, has partnered with WSU to develop a workforce and pipeline management program to help recruit, teach and graduate the pipeline managers of the future. GLWA has hired **Dr. Chris Eamon**, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, to be the inaugural director of the program, which was initiated by John Norton, GLWA's director of research and transformation. The program will have four primary directives: water industry workforce development; implementation of applied research focused on pipe failures and renewal of legacy pipe; establishment of a large diameter pipe boneyard facility for education, training, and research purposes; and program growth and advancement.

Honors

The Irvin D. Reid Honors College is prepared for its largest incoming class, with more than 600 students joining Honors for the fall 2024 semester, the second consecutive year of record FTIAC enrollment in Honors!

The Honors College completed its fifth year of the Rocket Summer Tech Internship, where it partnered with Rocket Companies and Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) to support nine Honors students to coach 20 Detroit high schoolers in coding, gaming, website design, digital/film arts, and social media app development.

Ilitch

Mike Ilitch School of Business students **Renée Elian** and **Sydney Perkins** were awarded scholarships through the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) Scholars Program for the 2024-2025 academic year. The PCAOB Scholars Program awards scholarships to outstanding students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate accounting degree programs.

Law

The "We the Defenders Conference," held at Wayne Law in mid-August, brought more than 230 public defense professionals from 40 states to Detroit and WSU. Organized by the National Association for Public Defense (NAPD), the conference focused on cross-professional collaboration and holistic representation to address systemic inequities in public defense. NAPD partnered with Wayne Law and the School of Social Work to host the event, highlighting the success of Law & SSW's Holistic Defense Program — a unique interdisciplinary initiative where law and social work students collaborate to provide comprehensive services to indigent clients. The conference's success has sparked discussions about future collaborations with NAPD.

Nursing

The College of Nursing was awarded a five-year, $5M grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to implement an interprofessional Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program project through collaboration among six Wayne State schools and colleges, the WSU Institute of Gerontology, and eight community health care organizations. The project, Applied Gerontology Research and Education to Eliminate Disparities (AGREED), will be led by **Dr. Cynthera McNeill**, Associate Clinical Professor and Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care Specialty Coordinator, who will serve as the program director and grant evaluator. The AGREED project encompasses the efforts and expertise of faculty and staff from the Wayne State College of Nursing, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, School of Medicine, School of Social Work, College of Education, College of Engineering, and Institute of Gerontology. Its focus is to educate and train health care and supportive care workforces to care for older adults by collaborating with community partners, and to maximize patient and family engagement to address care gaps and improve health outcomes for older adults by integrating geriatrics with primary care and other appropriate specialties.

Social Work

The School of Social Work is leading the field in crisis response training for Michigan's professionals. **Dr. Sheryl Kubiak,** Dean, and **Dr. Amy Watson**, Professor, along with staff from the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice, came together at a two-day Behavioral Health Emergency Response Initiative (BHERi) Impact Lab at the Detroit Athletic Club recently. Hosted by the Flinn Foundation, Marron Institute of New York University, and Pew Foundation, the meeting was attended by crisis response administrators from Michigan, Ohio and Texas, who worked to develop a proposal for a multi-year grant to support the expansion of crisis response across the state.

Student Success, Support, and Engagement

Thanks to the contributions of hundreds of faculty, staff, and students, Wayne State's Fall Opening was a resounding success, marked by a diverse array of activities that energized the campus community and set a positive tone for the academic year. This year's programming included various social events for students, including a block party at the Athletics complex, outdoor games and cultural performances, while faculty and staff mixers provided opportunities for professional networking and collaboration. New Student Convocation formally welcomed one of the largest new classes in the university's history and Festifall had record participation with 380+ programs, units and community partners involved in the annual resource fair.

Wayne State was awarded a $720K Innovation Investment Award to support adult learners by the Michigan Center for Adult College Success. This award, led by **Dr. Darryl Gardner,** Vice Provost of Student Success, Support and Engagement, and **Dr. Ahmad Ezzedine,** Senior Vice Provost of Partnerships, Workforce and International Initiatives, will advance enrollment and success for working adults, including a pilot program to bolster transfer pathways through credit for prior learning. Other submitted grant proposals to the Department of Education are seeking to support first-generation and low-income students, and students who are veterans. Decisions are expected early in the spring of 2025.

Partnerships, Workforce and International Initiatives

More than 330 students participated in the Wayne State Student Employment Career Fair, which was held on Aug. 27 and was attended by representatives from 31 university units and departments. This is the second year that Career Services has organized this event, which connects students to the wide range of work openings on campus. Working on campus is a great way for students to be exposed to and learn new skills; network with faculty, staff, and fellow students; and earn money while attending Wayne State.

Wayne State University is partnering with several industry groups and employers, including Michigan Central, to develop programs that support their workforce needs, and create a talent pipeline that meets their current and future demands for a job ready workforce. These partnerships, which include a focus on developing pathways that integrate prior learning into the academic experience, will create dedicated experiential learning opportunities, e.g. internships, project-based learning, for Wayne State students.

Faculty Affairs and Development

Several programs advanced professional development for faculty and faculty leadership,

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including this summer's Chairs Camps to support department chairs. On Aug. 19, the team hosted 66 new faculty members at New Faculty Orientation, where attendees familiarized themselves with WSU and heard from campus representatives across the university.
Kicking off the academic year, the team welcomed the sixth cohort of the Academic Leadership Academy, hosting new faculty on tours of Midtown and Detroit facilitated by the City Institute, and celebrating WSU's faculty at the Fall Opening Lunch.

Academic Programs, Assessment & Accreditation
Wayne State's Quality Initiative for the Higher Learning Commission will kick off this month with a meeting of the executive committee and the advisory committee. The goal of this three-year project is to build capacity across the campus community to use Wayne State's wealth of university data to address equity gaps in academic programs and student services.

Academic, student services and co-curricular programs engage in annual assessment of student learning and success as part of a continuous improvement effort, which is also reported to the Higher Learning Commission. At the current 83% overall completion rate for programs' results, action plans, and timelines, WSU is expected to meet this year's assessment target of 85%. Eight of the schools/colleges and student services have exceeded that target ahead of the deadline.

Department of Athletics

Athletics hosted its annual Warrior Rise Welcome Back Seminar on Aug. 25 at the Wayne State Fieldhouse. Student-athletes had their headshots taken for the athletics website, followed by presentations from Athletic Director **Erika Wallace** and other athletic staff members on topics ranging from drugs and alcohol, sexual education, inclusivity and NCAA compliance.

Wayne State student-athletes completed more than 6,000 hours of community service during the 2023-24 academic year, including June and July, along with nearly $1,100 in fundraising, continuing a tradition of community service. WSU ranked 16th nationally among all 313 NCAA Division II institutions in terms of community service hours for the 2023-24 academic year. In addition, Athletics and its Student-Athlete Advisory Committee won the inaugural GLIAC SAAC Community Service Championship. WSU student-athletes have spent nearly 140,000 hours in the community over the last 17 years.

Division of Development and Alumni Affairs

The Division of Development and Alumni Affairs has been quietly planning for Wayne State's next campaign, which it plans to publicly launch in two years. In August, Provost Clabo

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convened WSU's deans for an all-day planning retreat, during which David Ripple and members of the development team began preliminary work on defining case elements that may become part of the overall campaign priorities. The group came up with more than 150 unique ideas related to WSU's College to Career initiative — an impressive start to this effort.

Wayne State's new Assistant Vice President of Alumni Affairs, **Lindsay Crum**, started on Aug. 19. Lindsay brings an impressive background leading alumni relations programs, and recently made the move to Detroit from Colorado to join the team.

Division of Enterprise Planning and Operational Excellence

WSU faculty are piloting in their classrooms this fall *WarriorGPT*, a new internal generative AI Large Language Model service. Designed in coordination with the Academic Senate subcommittee for AI, WarriorGPT is a secure service that addresses privacy and data concerns associated with external AI tools. Embedded in a course's Canvas page, it functions like ChatGPT or other AI chatbots, and has controls so that Wayne State can actively manage its environment and provide security of any personal or institutional datathat is entered.

The Clearinghouse Dashboard, developed by Institutional Research and Data Analytics, is a powerful tool that provides strategic insights for planning and recruitment initiatives, as well as support for student success efforts aimed at enhancing retention and graduation rates. Combining data from the National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker with WSU information, it enables users to pinpoint institutions and programs where the university has experienced enrollment losses, along with relevant demographics and contact information for student outreach. It also identifies opportunities to engage with stop-out and drop-out students, encouraging them to resume their education and complete their degrees. The dashboard is now accessible to deans and academic directors, with plans to expand access to all employees involved in strategic planning.

Division of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

[Wayne State University is a finalist for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Innovation & Economic Prosperity Award](), which recognizes institutions excelling in innovation ecosystems, tech commercialization and industry-engaged research. The successful application emphasized WSU's TechTown, Innovation District, and WSU student internships reflected in the College to Career initiative. One of six finalists, WSU is competing for the Economic Engagement Connections Award, the top prize for institutions demonstrating excellence in talent, innovation and place-based efforts. Winners will be announced at their meeting in November.

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DEED fosters hands-on student experiences across WSU, coordinating events [like the 10-year celebration of the Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) program](#). In partnership with GDYT, WSU hosted hundreds of students this summer in various roles across campus. In August, Wayne State celebrated five years of the Tech On-Ramps program with Rocket Companies and GDYT, which pairs Detroit high schoolers with WSU Honors College students and Rocket tech professionals. This program has served 100 high school students and 45 WSU tech coaches, providing valuable industry experience. One WSU student participant shared this post about their experience:

> *"I am truly honored to have led the 5th year of the Rocket x WSU x GDYT Summer Tech Program, marking my second year in this impactful initiative that empowers students in the world of technology. These past six weeks have been an enriching experience, filled with learning and growth. This program has impacted me in ways that I could not imagine, and I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for these talented students."* – **Cullen Veasley**, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Division of Finance and Business Affairs

To reduce interest costs, WSU sold $31.9M in bonds in August to refund outstanding 2015 bonds. The transaction resulted in $2.1M in savings that will be realized mostly in the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years. As part of the bond refunding process, Both Moody's Investors Service and S&P Global ratings reaffirmed the university's long-term ratings of Aa3 and A+ respectively, noting Wayne State's unique role as an R1 research institution focused on access in Detroit, its revenue diversity from a combination of tuition and student fee revenue, its large research enterprise and steady state operating appropriations, and its proven fundraising capabilities

Division of Health Affairs

Discussions continue with key partners in the establishment of the new planned school of public health. WSU has been awarded a $1M Congressionally Directed Project to support population health IT infrastructure at Wayne State University. Course outlines for three concentrations for a Master of Public Health and plans for two PhD programs are underway.

Division of Research and Innovation

Dr. Taunya A. Phillips, Assistant Vice President for Technology Commercialization, Division of Research & Innovation, joined the division on August 1. She is leading revitalization efforts of the technology transfer and commercialization office that includes increasing engagement with faculty to commercialize intellectual property developed at WSU, as well as promoting

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innovation and entrepreneurship efforts in support of the university's strategic goals and Prosperity Agenda. Her guidance will aid the university's efforts and commitment to propelling Michigan's competitiveness in 21st century commerce and cultivating a campus that is "open for business" through creating important solutions to societal challenges.

College of Engineering faculty, **Dr. Jeremy Rickli,** Associate Professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, and **Dr. Yinlun Huang**, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, earned a renewal of their NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, Summer Academy in Sustainable Manufacturing ($438,627). The program gives undergraduates an opportunity to explore this critical area of research and contribute to the development of more sustainable industrial practices. Since its inception, the program has hosted 66 undergraduate researchers from 45 universities across 14 disciplines. Forty-five percent are women or underrepresented minorities.

Dr. Carla Caringi-Barron, Assistant Professor, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute's (MPSI) Research for the Infant Mental Health Training Program, received a nearly $4M grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for a five-year program, "MPSI Project LAUNCH: Promoting Young Child Wellness in Detroit." This program will educate and support hundreds of parents and other adults who care for young children while increasing access to education and high-quality infant and early childhood mental health services in multi-sector settings (home visiting, pediatric clinics, classrooms).

Dr Moh Malek, Professor, WSU Applebaum's Health Care Sciences/Physical Therapy Program, and Dr. **Maik Hüttemann**, Professor, School of Medicine's Department of [Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology](#), received a $2.8M award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the NIH for the project "Non-invasive infrared light therapy and medical device to treat spinal cord injury." The project will use a patented innovative, non-invasive infrared light technology developed by Hüttemann to target the mitochondria in the injured spinal cord. The goal is to decrease the reactive oxygen production, which is detrimental to neuronal cell regeneration to potentially treat incomplete spinal cord injury in the initial 24 hours following trauma.

Appendix: [Division of Research Q3 FY2024 New Awards](#) (PDF via OneDrive)

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Division of University Relations

Doug Kuiper will join the Marketing and Communications team as the university's senior associate vice president on Sept. 16. Doug is a Wayne State graduate with a long career in communications leadership in Michigan, including at MEDC and Ilitch Enterprises.

August marked the fifth anniversary celebration of the Dr. Silas Norman Medical Scholars Program, a partnership between the Black United Fund of Michigan and the School of Medicine. The program immerses Black junior high schoolers in the field of medicine. Adanna Nwamba, a student in WSU's Med-Direct program, and Jorden Harris are the first two cohort scholars.

President Espy served as the guest host on WJR's afternoon show on Monday, Aug. 12. This unique media opportunity highlighted Wayne State's work by the Office of Women's Health and WSU Athletics, and that of Wayne State's community partners at Midnight Golf, DTE Energy, and Michigan Central/Ford Philanthropy.

With the new semester, Today@Wayne launched with a refreshed design. The weekly newsletter includes important university stories, campus leader messages and spotlights of outstanding Warriors.

The 2024-25 State of Michigan fiscal year was finalized on June 27. The second Democratic-led budget in the past 40 years and the first without a large influx of federal COVID funds, the final negotiated budget includes modest increases to ongoing programs and a significantly smaller number of one-time appropriations than last year.