Letter from the Dean

Dear CFPCA Alumni, Supporters and Friends,

It's a very exciting time for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA), Wayne State University and the City of Detroit.

Detroit's resurgence has created unique opportunities for Wayne State and CFPCA. Students are enrolling in Wayne State because they can get a world class education at an affordable price in one of the most vibrant, diverse and creative cities in the country. This year, Wayne State enrolled its largest freshman class ever. More students are living on campus and taking advantage of all Detroit has to offer, including our amazing arts scene.

While Wayne State and CFPCA are benefiting from Detroit's renaissance, we have also helped create it. We have been in and of the City of Detroit for over 150 years. Our alumni help run arts institutions throughout Michigan. They are actors, performers, designers, managers, promoters, dancers, choreographers, journalists and producers. Together, we work to make Detroit a more creative, inclusive, innovative and interesting place.

This year, Wayne State celebrated its 150th year anniversary. The Sesquicentennial celebration has aligned with the 90th anniversary of the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, 100th anniversary of the Forensic Union and 100 years for the Department of Music. We are also celebrating the end of our successful Pivotal Moments capital campaign. Thanks to the generosity of many of you, the college has raised nearly $40 million and the University has surpassed its goal of $750 million.

A final point of celebration is described later in Expressions. The Gateway Performance Complex and the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center will transform the performing arts at Wayne State and in Midtown. This new facility for theatre, dance and music represents a recommitment of Wayne State to the performing arts and to the community.

I invite you to read about the Gateway and the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni in theatre, dance, communication, music and art and art history. You will be inspired by these amazing individuals.

Thank you for your support and best wishes.

Matthew W. Seeger, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean
1987, WSU dedicates the Frederick Linsell House as the Office of the Dean for the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

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Back cover: 1961, Wayne State purchases the First Church of Christ, Scientist and converts it into the Hilberry Theatre, the nation’s first and now longest-running graduate repertory theatre,
CFPCA welcomes largest freshman class in over 10 years
The summer of 2018 was busy for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts’ student services staff as they welcomed the largest freshman class in over ten years to last summer’s new student orientation. Reasons students chose CFPCA vary widely, but in talking with new first year students, several themes emerge.

The quality of CFPCA’s academic programs draws new students. CFPCA faculty continue to hone these programs, many with national accreditation, to ensure their continuing relevance. “Wayne State was always one of my top choices because of its outstanding journalism program,” answered Jessica Taylor, first year journalism student. “For years I heard people raving over how great the environment is and how well people performed at WSU.”

Incoming students are also drawn to the resurgence in the City of Detroit. They value the opportunities to glean new experiences and make new connections thanks to CFPCA’s location in the heart of Detroit’s University Cultural District. “Music runs through the culture here, and Detroit is the perfect place to gain both performance opportunities as well as a new appreciation for music,” explained Ashley Hicks, first year music performance student.

Still other students recognized CFPCA as a welcoming community. “I chose Wayne State because I felt that it had a passion filled staff,” said Kayla Gonzalez, first year dance student from Las Vegas, Nevada. “I love being in an environment that truly fosters a positive and loving energy, and to have it in a city that has so much history and potential made it seem like a perfect new adventure.”

For many new students, the decision to choose CFPCA started with an alum. The College could never recruit as successfully as it has without CFPCA alumni spreading the word to prospective students and giving back generously to current ones. “Helping students achieve success has always been important to me, because I remember being a student and needing guidance to get started professionally,” said Jeff Adkins ’14, public relations specialist at Henry Ford Health System. “My career began with the help of numerous WSU alumni, and I enjoy paying that forward by helping the next generation whenever possible.”

As this next recruitment year begins, CFPCA faculty and staff are gearing up to meet prospective students through high school visits, festivals, recruitment fairs, open houses and audition days. We are looking forward to another banner year and we thank our alumni for continuing to spread the word and for continuing to provide invaluable opportunities for future students.

“I chose Wayne State because I felt that it had a passion filled staff” - Kayla Gonzalez, first year dance student
a new beginning for a longstanding tradition
The Hilberry Theatre and M.F.A. graduate program were founded by two men who shared two goals — to enrich the lives of Wayne State students and to elevate the cultural experiences for the community by bringing repertory theatre to Detroit. Both Clarence B. Hilberry, president of Wayne State University from 1952-65, and Professor Leonard Leone, Hilberry’s former student and director of Wayne State’s theatre program from 1945-85, understood that experiencing live theatre is vital to a complete educational experience. Leone told the Detroit Free Press in 1963 that he was appalled to discover that not one of the students in the new drama department had ever seen a production of Romeo and Juliet.

At that time, Wayne State was the only graduate repertory theatre in the United States. The first company of 34 actors was assembled from 150 applicants from dozens of universities and professional programs across the country. Julius Caesar, the Hilberry’s debut production, opened to favorable reviews on January 14, 1964. The Hilberry soon became a favorite destination for Detroiters and a symbiotic partnership quickly developed between the theatre and the community. To this day, the Hilberry still provides educational resources for area teachers and makes its productions accessible to local school groups and organizations, while residents promote and support the theatre’s efforts. The Understudies, a formal group of Hilberry patrons, has played an integral role in ensuring the theatre’s prominence through networking and fundraising in the Detroit community.

The Hilberry’s current home was built in 1917 as the First Church of Christ, Scientist until it was purchased by Wayne State in 1961 and refitted as a “temporary” home for the Hilberry Theatre. The Studio Theatre, an

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S. Epatha Merkerson
(1950-)

S. Epatha Merkerson has won a Golden Globe, an Emmy Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award, an Obie Award and four NAACP Image Awards. She is best known for her role as Lieutenant Anita Van Buren from the long-running NBC crime drama Law & Order.

Ernie Hudson
(1941-)

Ernie Hudson has appeared in dozens of films and television shows throughout his career and is perhaps best known for his roles as Winston Zeddemore in the Ghostbusters film series, Sergeant Darryl Albrecht in The Crow and Warden Leo Glynn on HBO’s Oz. He also had a cameo in the 2016 remake of Ghostbusters.

Lloyd Richards
(Theatre director and actor)

Alumnus Lloyd Richards earns his first of several Tony Award nominations for directing A Raisin in the Sun. Richards, who was the first African-American to direct a play on Broadway, would go on to win two Tony Awards for Fences.
Leadership Donors

Thanks go out to everyone who has supported talent and creativity in Detroit by contributing to the Gateway Performance Complex, with special thanks to our leadership donors:

Gretchen C. Valade  
Maggie and Bob Allesee  
Lynne M. and Arthur W. Bryant  
Susan Burns and Frits Hoendervanger  
Peter Caborn and Donald Morrissett  
Dr. L. Delf Dodge and Mr. Timothy M. Dodson  
David and Stefanie Lubin

Drs. Harris and Phoebe Mainster  
Mary I. McLeod Foundation  
Michael Miller and Julie Hearshen Miller  
MJS Packaging  
Richard and Debra Partrich  
Jeffrey Smith and Lisa Vallee-Smith

intimate performance space that occupies the building’s lower level, was outfitted to showcase smaller and more experimental productions. Since 1963, Wayne State has presented an average of seven plays per season at the Hilberry, totaling upwards of 5,600 performances for more than 2 million patrons. Although the Hilberry program has changed to a modified repertory season to accommodate the curricular needs of students, the theatre’s relevance to the community, quality of productions and role in the larger educational mission of Wayne State has never been stronger. However, theatre has changed in the 57 years since WSU acquired an old church and began converting it to a theatre. Programs in what is now the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance have grown over time. The Hilberry’s space limitations, antiquated production facilities and general condition present significant challenges for modern performers, designers and patrons. Enter the Gateway Performance Complex, a nearly $65 million initiative that will combine a 21st century venue adjacent to the current building with plans to convert the existing Hilberry into a modern jazz performance hall. This combined new venue will support leading-edge theatrical design and production, facilitate collaborations with the Detroit arts community, and fully engage audiences with a range of performance spaces and an on-site café.

The current Hilberry building will enjoy its third act, this time as the Gretchen Valade

Sonya Tayeh  
(choreographer)

The two-time Emmy Award-winner for her work on the TV show So You Think You Can Dance.

Tim Meadows  
(actor and comedian)

Tim Meadows is an actor and improv comedian. He is famously known as one of the longest-running cast members on Saturday Night Live, where he appeared for 10 seasons.

Garth Fagan  
(choreographer)

In 1998, Fagan earned the Tony Award for Best Choreography for the Broadway musical The Lion King.

Tom Skerritt  
(actor)

Tom Skerritt is known for his roles in MASH, Alien, Top Gun, A River Runs Through It, Up in Smoke and the television series Picket Fences, for which he won a Primetime Emmy Award.
Jazz Center. Valade, a noted local business owner, philanthropist and chair of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation, pledged $5 million in 2015 to convert the Hilberry into a world-class jazz performance venue that will host high-profile acts and serve as an educational hub for Wayne State’s music students and faculty. At the same time, Valade created the Gretchen Valade Endowed Chair in Jazz Studies with a gift of $1.5 million and gave $1 million to establish the Gretchen Valade Endowed Scholarship in Jazz Studies.

She recently added $2 million to her initial pledge to reconfigure the Hilberry’s Studio Theatre into the Jazz Underground, a secondary performance area for jam sessions, workshops and community engagement programs. “I’m passionate about jazz artists and spotlighting Detroit’s rich jazz heritage,” said Valade. “So I’m pleased to move Wayne State closer to creating a new jazz performance space in the city.”

Valade and other supporters have ensured that the Hilberry’s legacy of fostering arts education and appreciation at Wayne State and in the Detroit community will carry on for generations. The new Gateway Performance Complex and the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center will ensure that Detroit’s performing arts legacy will be celebrated and available for future generations of students and patrons.

*Full version of this story can be found at alumni.wayne.edu.*

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Della Reese
(singer and actress)

Della Reese was a jazz, gospel and pop singer, actress, one-time talk-show host and ordained minister, whose career spanned six decades. She was best known for her 1959 hit single “Don’t You Know?” her talk show Della and her leading role in the television show Touched by an Angel.

James Lipton
(writer and actor)

James Lipton is widely known as the creator, executive producer, writer and host of Inside the Actors Studio, which is seen in 94 million American homes and 125 countries, and has been recognized with a record 17 Emmy nominations, a Primetime Emmy Award, and a Daytime Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award among many others.

Ruben Santiago-Hudson
(actor and playwright)

Ruben Santiago-Hudson has won Tony and Obie awards for his work on stage. He wrote the autobiographical play Lackawanna Blues, which was adapted by HBO in 2005 and has appeared in numerous films and television series including Selma, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, The West Wing, Law & Order, and Designated Survivor.
Wayne State at the 2018 Detroit Jazz Festival

Photos: Detroit Jazz Festival & Jeffery Dunn
CFPCA events shine in Sesquicentennial Celebration

Wayne State University officially launched its yearlong Sesquicentennial Celebration in January of this year. President M. Roy Wilson kicked off the festivities, which began with showcasing WSU’s history and impact in medicine, science, engineering, education and, of course, the arts. A creative display of student performances, including dancers, singers and actors from the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, brought to life the tremendous impact Wayne State has had throughout its 150-year history. Several CFPCA sesquicentennial events added energy and elegance to the yearlong celebration.

Gateway Performance Complex

CFPCA marked the formal groundbreaking of the Gateway Performance Complex and future home of the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center, at the Maggie Alleeese Department of Theatre and Dance’s President’s Preview event on September 20, 2018. The event kicked off the 2018-19 performance season and premiered the Tony Award-winning musical, Avenue Q.

“Jazz has inspired me my whole life, and as a result, I enjoy giving others the chance to be inspired. This is one reason why I continue to support the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation and am helping transform the Hilberry Theatre on Wayne State University’s campus into the new Gretchen Valade Jazz Center. Both entities celebrate Detroit’s culture and rich jazz history, and are great educational platforms for young community members interested in the genre. I look forward to seeing the synergies between the two evolve.”

— Gretchen Valade, chair of the Detroit Jazz Festival Board of Directors
Presidential Symposia

President Wilson introduced a six-part Presidential Symposia series focusing on topics that reflect the institution’s rich legacy of excellence in academics, research and creative work. CFPCA was selected to be part of the series, presenting a symposium entitled Seeing is Understanding: Visualizing Ideas: The Interaction Between Science, Art and Design and contributing to a second event, Free and Responsible Speech in the Academy: Empowering Diversity on Contentious Issues. These events featured three keynote speakers.

The first, Margaret Wertheim, an internationally known science writer, author and creator of the Crochet Coral Reef project in response to the effects of climate change on the reef, illustrated how the mathematics underlying coral formations illuminate the connections among science, art and design. Her Crochet Coral Reef project has been exhibited in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

The second, Rachel Sussman, an American contemporary artist and photographer, presented The Oldest Living Things in the World. Sussman’s presentation delved into her research with biologists, her world travels photographing continuously living organisms 2,000 years or older, and her questions about the continuing viability of these organisms in a changing climate.

The third, Lee C. Bollinger, a First Amendment scholar, has spent more than 20 years as an administrator at the University of Michigan and is the President at Columbia University. President Bollinger’s publications have placed him at the center of public discussion about the importance of global free speech to continued social progress. In this symposium President Bollinger examined the practical and idealistic ways scholars have tried to ensure the broadest possible campus conversations, particularly in times of social unrest and divisions where these conversations are more important and more difficult. •

Margaret Wertheim

Rachel Sussman

Lee C. Bollinger

Crochet Coral Reef, Margaret Wertheim

Image from The Oldest Living Things in the World, Rachel Sussman
Grammy Award-winning alumnus hits all the right notes

Dr. George Shirley enjoyed a moment in the spotlight when Wayne State kicked off its yearlong Sesquicentennial celebration in January — and the spotlight is certainly a place where Shirley shines.

One of the most illustrious voices of the 20th century, George Shirley (who graduated from the College of Education in 1956) was among the handful of alumni and faculty featured in student performances that paid tribute to 150 years of university highlights. The creative presentation blended an archival recording of Shirley’s performance as Ferrando in Mozart’s Così fan tutte — for which he won a 1968 Grammy — with a live performance by Eric Taylor, who earned his master of fine arts from WSU in 2014 and now serves as artistic director of the nonprofit Detroit Children’s Choir. An honored guest at the event, Shirley received a standing ovation from the full house after the final note rang out.

“George Shirley is an iconic musician and artist who firmly placed the footprints of Wayne State University on the world’s greatest stages,” says Dr. Norah Duncan IV, WSU Department of Music professor and chair. “Now, more than 60 years after his graduation, he continues to perform and to teach, coach and inspire young artists.”

In addition to his musical achievements, Shirley has been a civil rights pioneer many times over. Following his WSU graduation, he was the first African-American to be appointed to a high school music teaching position in Detroit Public Schools. He also was the first African-American member of the U.S. Army Soldiers’ Chorus and the first African-American tenor to perform a leading role with New York’s renowned Metropolitan Opera.

Shirley was drafted by the Army a year after leaving WSU, when he was teaching music at Miller High School in Detroit. During basic training, he picked up where he had left off with the Wayne State marching band and played the euphonium in an Army band. Shortly after, he earned a spot on the newly formed Soldiers’ Chorus alongside former opera tenor Therny Georgi, who recognized his talent and invited Shirley to study with him.

Upon discharge from the Army in 1959, Shirley made his professional debut in New York. Just two years later, he entered and won the Metropolitan Opera’s 1961 national auditions, appearing in 26 shows over the next 11 years. Over the course of his career, he performed more than 80 roles in the world’s greatest opera houses, and served on the faculty at the University of Michigan, among other teaching positions. Wayne State presented him with an honorary doctorate in 2012, and in 2015 he received the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama during a White House ceremony.

“George Shirley is an institution who stands for perseverance, fortitude, an unmitigated pursuit of excellence and music’s ability to give voice to our humanity,” Duncan says. “We are humbly proud of our esteemed alumnus and friend.”

photo: 1954 Wayne University students perform Oedipus Rex. At center stage is Grammy Award-winning alumnus George Shirley.
A tribute to Dr. John D. Vander Weg  
Celebrating 45 Years of Leadership in Higher Education

Among this year’s many celebrations, we must take a moment to acknowledge an outstanding individual’s significant leadership. We celebrate the prolific career of Dr. John D. Vander Weg (BM, MM and PhD, University of Michigan), professor of music and former senior associate provost for academic affairs. Before joining Wayne State University as associate dean for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, Vander Weg taught music theory and percussion in Douglass College at Rutgers, University of Michigan, DePauw University, and University of Texas at San Antonio, where he also held various administrative positions.

Vander Weg was appointed Chair of the Music Department in 2007 and served in this role until 2012. Current department Chair Dr. Norah Duncan IV was his first administrative appointment, serving as his Associate Chair until Vander Weg joined the senior staff of the Office of the Provost in 2013.

A strong advocate for the highest academic standards, Vander Weg has been involved in various roles with the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), including membership on NASM’s Nominating Committee, and currently as an elected member of its Commission for Accreditation. Consequently, Vander Weg has made sure that the standards of this national organization of schools, conservatories, colleges and universities are being upheld here at Wayne State.

“Quickly I learned that John is a person of conviction and integrity. John has a firm belief in the importance of music in society,” said Duncan. “I believe this is why he chose to be a music professor who led students through the fascinating world of music theory and analysis. By doing so, he gave them an insight into the mind of composers and performers who may have lived centuries ago.”

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts thanks Dr. John D. Vander Weg for saying, “Yes!” to sharing his talent, “Yes!” to teaching and “Yes!” to academic leadership.

“John will be missed by the Wayne State community. It is hard for me to imagine this place without him. As long as I am department chair, he will have a place in this department, where he can continue to support the faculty, students and me,” expressed Duncan.
Department of Music centennial

Don’t miss the celebration!

The Department of Music is hosting a yearlong celebration starting this fall and ending next fall. Major events and concerts will culminate in a final centennial musical extravaganza featuring works and performances by alumni, faculty and students. This is an opportunity for alumni and friends to see how celebrated traditions continue today, to attend concerts and special events, and to demonstrate belief in the value of music in society by pledging financial support.

Centennial Club

To this end, the Department of Music has created a “Centennial Club” for alumni and friends who are willing to contribute to one or more of four important initiatives. The goal, which the department hopes to surpass, is to raise $100,000 through 100 individuals who offer to contribute $1,000 each.

STUDENT TRAVEL

One of the fondest memories for many alumni is student travel. Past events include the Men’s Glee Club and Chamber Singers competitions and international tours, Summer Opera internship opportunities for vocal performance students, and Jazz Band performances in Europe, South America and Italy. Most recently, the Concert Chorale and Women’s Chorale performed in Toronto, Canada during the winter 2018 and just this past summer, the WSU Camerata performed several concerts throughout Italy.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The escalating cost of higher education is making it impossible for many students to afford post-secondary education. Any assistance in this area will lessen the dependency on costly student loans.

CAA ORGAN FUND

The Community Arts Auditorium organ, a three-manual Aeolian Skinner, sits quietly in the auditorium and is in need of re-leathering and a new console. The cost of this project exceeds $90,000. Graduates from the organ program fill many prestigious posts throughout Metropolitan Detroit and beyond.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

This fund supports academic programs, including the cost for equipment purchases, software, concert promotion, program design and printing, publicity, recruitment activities, departmental branding and guest artists. Additionally, it provides funding for faculty travel to conferences around the world.
Centennial Series

Save the date for these special events and performances celebrating the 100th year of the Department of Music. Join us for performances that highlight the legacy of the department’s contribution to music and culture in Detroit and beyond.

A Tribute to Dr. John Vander Weg:
Celebrating 45 Years of Leadership in Higher Education
Monday, November 5, 2018 • 7:30p.m.
The Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center

52nd Salute to Greater Detroit
Featuring WSU Alumna Jacqueline Echols, soprano
Sunday, November 11, 2018 • 3p.m.
St. Ambrose Church

Jazz Big Band I and Strings:
A Tribute to Professor Matt Michaels
Monday, December 3, 2018 • 7:30p.m.
The Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center

Gershwin’s Porgy & Bess:
Concert Version
Detroit Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leonard Slatkin featuring the WSU Centennial Choir
Saturday, February 16, 2019 • 8p.m.
Sunday, February 17, 2019 • 3p.m.
Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center

Detroit Symphony Orchestra’s
41st Classical Roots Celebration
The WSU Symphonic Chorus joins the Detroit Symphony Orchestra to honor and celebrate the contributions of African-American musicians and composers in classical music
Friday, March 8, 2019 • 10:45a.m.
Saturday, March 9, 2019 • 8p.m.
Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center

opposite page: 1945. LIFE magazine features the Wayne University band, calling it “the biggest and most complicated singing, playing and marching society in the United States.”
Looking back

Pivotal Moments

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

As the university celebrates its 150th anniversary, it also revels in the successful close to the Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University. The campaign raised more than $750 million to benefit students, faculty and the community, exceeding its ambitious $750 million goal.

Alumni and friends of CFPCA supported student success, faculty research and community outreach programs throughout the college. $10.8 million in new scholarship dollars, $5 million in departmental dollars and over 19,000 gifts in total were given to the campaign.

A thank you goes to every donor for your ongoing support. Your gifts ensure a future filled with pivotal moments for CFPCA students, faculty and community members.

To support more life-changing moments in CFPCA, visit go.wayne.edu/give-cf pca.

“I love that Wayne State is in my hometown and my favorite city in the world. I love seeing Detroit flourish, and I am proud to be a part of it.”

—Patrick Roache ’18

bachelor of fine arts in acting and Talent Scholarship recipient
2018 Kresge Artists

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts continues to set the bar with more alumni and faculty Kresge Artist Fellows than any other Michigan university. This year, Kresge Arts Detroit named another group of CFPCA alumni as Kresge Artist Fellows.

2018 Kresge Live Arts / Film & Music Fellows

AHYA SIMONE, a ’14 alumna of the Department of Music

ALEX WAY, a ’16 alumna of the Department of Music

BEN CORONA, a ’15 alumnus of the Department of Communication

TONI CUNNINGHAM, a ’09 alumna of the Department of Communication

In addition, two CFPCA faculty members took seats as Kresge Artist Fellowship application review panelists. These panelists are accomplished, well-respected national, regional and local artists and arts professionals that are selected according to the categories of arts disciplines being reviewed.

2018 Film & Media Panelist

JUANITA ANDERSON, area head of Media Arts and Studies in the Department of Communication, a veteran producer, executive producer and documentary filmmaker

2018 Live Arts Panelist

BILICIA HINES, an assistant professor and director of the Black Theatre Program in the Maggie Alleece Department of Theatre and Dance

For more information about Kresge Arts in Detroit, visit www.kresgeartsindetroit.org.

2018 Kresge Fellow Photos: Noah Stephens
”It was Wayne that gave us our start into the world of art.” She discovered Rembrandt, Matisse, Cezanne and Klee in Dr. Ernst Sheyer’s art history classes. Mentored by Jane Betsy Welling, Chair of the Art Education Department, Jerry recalled that “John Foster (ceramics) and David Mitchell (painting) opened up something for me that I never knew I could do.” He was invited to the prestigious ceramics graduate program at Alfred University and received his MFA the next year.

In 1949, the Ackermans attended For Modern Living, a Detroit Institute of Art exhibition organized by Alexander Girard. Jerry recalls that seeing Eames, Nelson V’soske, and others opened their eyes to “an exciting new way of thinking and design expression” and mused, “If they can do it, why can’t we?”

Drawn by the weather and burgeoning artistic community, the couple moved to Los Angeles in 1952 and set up a ceramics studio, Jenev (a combination of their first names). In 1958 they started a new business, Era Industries, expanding their offerings to mosaics, textiles, woodcarvings, and hardware.

Inspired by the Bauhaus, the Ackermans revived traditional techniques in innovative ways, utilized skilled craftsmen around the world to execute their designs, and explored different materials resulting in prolific and iconic body of work. In the 1980s, they returned to their fine art roots, with Evelyn creating a series of cloisonnés and Jerry throwing ceramics after a 30-year hiatus.

Infused with the spirit of postwar optimism and a can-do attitude, the Ackermans expressed themselves artistically through their design and fine arts backgrounds while staying true to their goal of “creating beautiful yet affordable objects for young couples like ourselves.” Today, the popularity of mid-century modern design and their work continues.
In 2010, the Ackermans returned to Wayne State to accept the Distinguished Alumni Award. Enjoying renewed recognition, they have received numerous awards for their contributions, held retrospective exhibits including “Masters of Mid-Century California Modernism” and “A Marriage of Art and Design,” and have designs in museums and private collections including the Smithsonian and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. They have also been the subject of numerous publications, a short movie, and special events. Their partnership in love and design is celebrated in the book Hand-in-Hand (Chavkin & Thackaberry, Pointed Leaf Press).

With designs that have a timeless appeal, the Ackermans’ work has attracted a new generation of enthusiasts and inspired others, including Jonathan Adler. Their daughter launched Ackerman Modern (www.ackermannmodern.com) to steward and promote her parents’ legacy. In 2017 Design Within Reach, a respected retailer of “authentic modern design,” reissued a collection of Jenev ceramics, designed by Jerry in 1953 and meticulously recreated from the originals. “When I look at our designs today, they hold up, and I’m proud of that,” Jerry says smiling.

At 98, Jerry is still active in art, design, and their legacy. Evelyn passed away in 2012, but Jerry has “not lost my passion for art because, even though Evelyn is gone, she is still with me in my heart.”

- Laura Ackerman-Shaw, daughter

opposite page: In 2017 Design Within Reach reissued a Jenev ceramics collection designed by Jerry Ackerman in 1953.

1. Evelyn and Jerry Ackerman at their Jenev Studio in Los Angeles in 1954. Courtesy: Ackerman Modern. Photo: Milton Lipton
2. Evelyn and Jerry Ackerman receiving the Wayne State University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010. Courtesy: Ackerman Modern.

Courtesy: Ackerman Modern.
Hands on MetroArts Detroit experience connects alumna with her dream career

MetroArts Detroit is a television program produced at Wayne State University with student crew members. Filming takes place at the 5057 Midtown Studio, a cooperative venture between the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts’ Department of Communication and Detroit Public Television. The series aims to bring awareness and promote up-and-coming artists of all disciplines in the greater Metro Detroit area.

The producers are Senior Lecturer and Manager of the 5057 Midtown TV Studio, Dr. Kimmerly Piper-Aiken, and Associate Director for Information Technology, Gary Cendrowski.

“MetroArts Detroit is the best of all worlds for media students,” said Dr. Piper-Aiken. “They get to learn in a supervised TV studio but they are producing real guest segments involving dancers, bands, fine artists, fashion designers, and more. The students engage their own creativity whether they are on camera, setting lights, producing or editing. And, for me, it’s just fun. I get to facilitate the learning process while meeting hundreds of talented artists and musicians from the Detroit area.”

Former MetroArts Detroit Host and current Lexus Product Specialist/Presenter for the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS), Nagsheen Nassif (M.A., ’14), explained that MetroArts Detroit provided an opportunity for her to step outside of her comfort zone and push her limits to reach her dreams.

“Wayne State not only taught me how to be courageous, but I was able to prove to myself and everyone else I had what it took to succeed in my classes,” said Nassif. “I learned how to write scripts, edit film, speak in front of large crowds, in front of the camera and even do sit down interviews. I incorporate all of these skills on a daily basis with all of the positions I currently hold.”

Prior to her time at Wayne State, Nassif received her undergraduate degree near home and did not typically venture beyond familiar boundaries. When she started her graduate degree at CFWCA and took a chance at participating in MetroArts Detroit, she was surprised and motivated by all of the hands-on opportunities.

“My experience with MetroArts Detroit was nothing less than amazing,” said Nassif. “During season one I was behind the scenes as a camera operator, producer, set designer, teleprompter runner, and anywhere else I needed to be to make sure the show ran smoothly.”

After wrapping up season one, Nassif was asked to do a small hosting gig of interviews with musicians and conductors, which was a live webcast between Detroit and Torino, Italy. She later discovered that the hosting gig was essentially an interview for the hosting position for season two of MetroArts Detroit, a position which she was offered and happily accepted.

“I loved every minute of it. I learned so much and met so many talented people from all walks of life,” said Nassif. “This show started my career as I signed with three talent agencies and quickly started working after my season ended.”

Now, as a Lexus Product Specialist, Nassif is responsible for presenting new features and discussing benefits of Lexus vehicles at shows and events. As a narrator, Nassif is on a platform in front of hundreds of auto-show goers to boost their knowledge of the Lexus brand. She also performs right seat driving for other brands, and does brand ambassador work, commercial work, acting, hosting and emceeing. With the NAIAS season almost underway, Nassif will soon be traveling all over the U.S. again as she begins her fifth season with Lexus.

“I owe a huge thank you to Dr. Kim Piper-Aiken as she always pushed me to be and do my best. Her confidence in me helped me get to where I am today, and I am forever thankful,” said Nassif.

Dr. Piper-Aiken maintains an active oversight role and fine-tunes the students’ work before it airs on Detroit Public Television, which is a unique benefit as it is rare to have a student-produced show air on a large-market PBS affiliate.

“I am a firm believer that anything is possible in life,” said Nassif. “My advice to anyone pursuing a career in the communications field is always push the boundaries, always believe in yourself, be different and always stay strong no matter how many people try to push you down.”

For more information on the show and air times, visit www.metroartsdetroit.com.
150 years of
grit, determination and innovation
for Wayne State University and its alumni

This year, as Wayne State University celebrates its sesquicentennial, I am newly inspired by the 150-year history of this great institution.

Through decades of successes and struggles – including economic renaissance, the Great Depression, World Wars, the booms, busts and rebirth of the auto industry, and Detroit’s historic bankruptcy – the University has been a bedrock institution in the city. It is one of Detroit’s gems, drawing students from around the world and producing graduates who have made great contributions across their fields and disciplines for generations.

Wayne State is rooted in a strong sense of social mission, like Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan where I serve as CEO, and dedicated to creating “a premier university in the heart of Detroit.”

The university’s beginnings trace back to 1868 when a group of determined physicians, who saw the horrors of medical treatment during the Civil War, founded the Detroit Medical College to improve care and health education in the city. The college evolved to become the world-renowned School of Medicine, recognized for groundbreaking research and medical advancements.

The School of Medicine is now part of the 13 colleges and schools of Wayne State University, a leading research institution.

In the heart of Midtown, we have the nationally-recognized College of Nursing, the well-regarded Wayne Law and Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, and the Irvin D. Reid Honors College, which inspire students to become service-driven leaders.

The legions of teachers, social workers, engineers, artists and other leaders who have graduated from Wayne State have made an impact here and across the globe.

Under the leadership of President M. Roy Wilson, the university has continued to grow with Detroit’s own revitalization. His leadership brought the Mike Ilitch School of Business, which promises an extraordinary education in a state-of-the-art facility that will develop the business leaders of tomorrow.

Wayne State’s story is one of grit, determination and innovation, which mirrors the story of tens of thousands of alumni like me – as well as Detroit herself.

I grew up just a few miles from Wayne State and Blue Cross Shield of Michigan. Like so many of my fellow students, I earned my degree working full-time, going to school at night. It wasn’t the easy route, but it was the path I chose to accomplish my goals.

From my own experience at Wayne State University, I’m now fortunate to lead initiatives and teams who improve the health and well-being for millions of people across the nation.

On your sesquicentennial anniversary, I say “thank you,” Wayne State University. Our city, the region, and indeed the world, have benefited and will benefit from the extraordinary education you have provided for students past, present and future, including my own son. And the grit, determination and innovation that are hallmark traits to Wayne State Warriors will surely inspire generations to come to do great things for at least the next 150 years.

Daniel J. Loeppe (Communication ’82 ’86) is the president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Loeppe was honored with a doctorate of humane letters, honoris causa, at Wayne State’s 2014 commencement ceremonies.

In honor of the university’s sesquicentennial, BCBSM lit the top of the Renaissance Center building in Warrior green and gold on January 24, 2018 to demonstrate its support and appreciation for Wayne State and to commemorate the celebration.
Hilberry sweethearts celebrate 50 years of marriage

A funny thing happened while walking through the Hilberry Lobby. **Dave and Meg Gilbert** stumbled upon each other while studying theatre at Wayne State. Dave ‘67, a former Hilberry Company member and house manager, and Meg ’70, a former acting student, celebrated 50 years of marriage on May 25, 2018.

Meg and her siblings got the theatre bug early on. Both of her parents were WSU graduates and her father was a professor. They were early supporters and attendees of the Hilberry and other Detroit arts venues. Meg noted, “They were always supportive of the arts in education and in life. They used to take us to puppet shows at the Detroit Institute of Arts as small children.”

Meg began taking Speech and 100-level theatre classes from her first semester at Wayne, and had ‘student-labor’ stints in the costume shops of both the Hilberry and Bonstelle. She adds, “I was a student actor for a number of graduate-directing students’ final projects and we have life-long friends from those experiences. I have been an actor, costume and set designer for professional, community, school and outreach programs ever since.”

During Meg’s first year, her father, Department of Art and Art History Professor **Wilfred C. Becker**, clued her in that she could see performances for free by signing up to usher. She signed up the first week of school and never left.

“The very first night I went to usher, I opened the big front doors and saw this cute, blond guy walking across the lobby, caught in one of the mini-spots. I heard bells and said, ‘That’s the man I’m going to marry,”’ Meg recounts.

As a house manager, Dave shared that he was less confident than Meg at first sight, but soon did ask Meg on a date, and she kept coming back to usher.

“Our mutual love of theatre and the excellent training we received at WSU have lasted us through many theatrical adventures in professional, community and educational arenas coast-to-coast. Theatre has been our family hobby and, sometimes, profession, the way other families do sports.”

Dave and Meg have two sons, **Christopher** and **Matthew**. The couple’s oldest son, Christopher, was also a Hilberry Company member, graduating with his MFA in Acting in 2002. He now is the director of marketing, sales, and public relations, as well as producer, for Palos Verdes Performing Arts in Rolling Hills Estates, California. Matthew went to NYU Tisch School of the Arts (BFA ’92). He is now chief of staff for the Chairman of Cantor Fitzgerald in NYC.

“Our childhood was full of time spent at various theatres in Southeast Michigan as my parents built sets, costumes, performed, rehearsed, managed the box office, etc.,” said Christopher. “The time they spent at WSU paid dividends for their own lives, but it also engaged two sons in a lifetime of artistic expression.”

“While pursuing my MFA, I spent many moments standing in the Hilberry, realizing that as I pursued my dream, I was standing on the shoulders of my parents, my aunts and uncles who also performed at the Hilberry and Bonstelle,” said Christopher. “The powerful impact Wayne State and the Hilberry have made on all of us will remain eternally. We are grateful to commemorate Mom and Dad’s commitment, and we are so thankful for the good people at WSU for making them feel so special. Thanks will never be enough for that gift.”

In spring 2018, a Golden Donor seat sponsorship was gifted in honor of Dave and Meg Gilbert by their sons. This commemorative gift will forever signify where it all started for the Hilberry couple.
Students’ fashion design displayed at Somerset Mall thanks to industry connection

Students from the fashion design and merchandising program in the James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History had a unique opportunity this year to spotlight their expressive project in one of Somerset Collection Mall’s window displays.

The garment “Lady in the News,” was created in part-time faculty member Valentina Dimitriescu’s visual merchandising and display course. The wearable work of art portrays an eco-friendly and sustainable dress, made out of Women’s Wear Daily newspapers — no longer in print — and coffee filters. Alice Werkema, a student from Brazil, originally pitched the concept for the garment during the course. Then, a team of students worked together to construct this original and thought-provoking fashion piece.

This display opportunity came about when Dimitriescu gave the students the challenge to create a display that incorporated sustainable products and fashion. As an instructor and professional in the field, Dimitriescu felt the need to educate her future designers on the importance of creating industry connections. She called one of her contacts at Somerset Collection Mall and shared the details about the garment and its meaningful design. The display associate was thrilled to highlight the fashion-forward design and support local student work.

“This opportunity provides visibility for the students’ artwork and possible future employment at the mall and surrounding areas,” said Dimitriescu. “I felt it was about time our students started getting some of the notice and recognition that they deserve.”

Dimitriescu is a ’02 alumna of CFPCA and has taught in the fashion design and merchandising program for 13 years. She has acquired her product development, technical design, visual merchandising, advertising and marketing experience through work with corporations such as Doner Advertising, Kmart Headquarters, TDIC Robot Covers and retailers such as The Gap, Inc., BCBG and Macy’s. For the benefit of her students, she incorporates this professional experience into her class instruction.

“This opportunity is also a great promotional tool for prospective incoming students,” mentioned Dimitriescu. “I have taught at other colleges and came back to teach at WSU because I believe in the school and want to put the department on the map as one of the top fashion and merchandising programs in Michigan!”

The mall designers were so impressed by the student work that they are planning to display more of Dimitriescu’s students pieces in the future. If you enjoy shopping or casually strolling through Somerset Mall, keep a look out for more display designs to come from CFPCA’s future designers.

Student designers include:
Hallie Antoon, Emily DeMartli, Chelsea Green, Kylie Hurwitz, Dua’a Koussan, Allison Phillips, Victoria Vaccaro, Alice Werkema, Alexis Johnson
100 years later and the Forensic Union continues to nurture critical thinkers and effective communicators

1938, The debate squad poses for a photo.

This year, the Wayne State University Forensic Union - the competitive speech and debate teams - celebrated its 100th anniversary. The first debate involving colleges that would later become Wayne State occurred on March 29, 1918. These campus contests generated support for a competitive intermural debate team, which formally organized on February 11, 1921.

While the program has had several successful directors and coaches in its history, none were as influential as Dr. George W. Ziegelmueller, the Director of Forensics from 1962-1973 and 1976-2005. During his tenure, Wayne State won numerous Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha national championships in debate and extemporaneous speaking and won over 20 state forensics championships. His students also won two national championships in Individual Events. Ziegelmueller qualified 65 teams to the National Debate Tournament, with several teams that reached the elimination debates. Two of those teams finished in second place at this highly prestigious tournament. He also coached two individual students who were recognized as the second-best debate speakers in the nation.

“The program has offered me a creative and educational outlet that has assisted me in both academia and my personal life.”

In 2005, Dr. Kelly Young followed his mentor, Dr. Ziegelmueller, in coaching talented students to do their best work. As the ninth Director of Forensics at Wayne State, Young directs the speech program with Dr. Ronald Stevenson, the director of Debate. Young has coached several state champions and three national champions in Individual Events. He has also directed two teams to the semifinals of the National Debate Tournament and Cross Examination Debate Association National Championship. One of his teams has won the American Debate Association national championship and one of his students has been named the top debate speaker at the National Debate Tournament.

While the program has been highly successful in its 100 years of existence, its greatest impact is found in how it has transformed the lives of its students.

“After hundreds of rounds of debate on Wayne’s debate teams - on both sides of each year’s topic - one comes away with an intuitive ability to analyze problems, pick the best solutions, and build the strongest case for their support,” said Dr. Donald Ritzenhein ’68 ’80 ’99. “That ability, and effective public speaking and writing, were the debate skills I benefitted from most throughout my career.”

By utilizing critical thinking and public speaking skills developed in competitive debate, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts Board of Visitor and ’62 alumna Sue Nine, along with her husband Paul Nine ’62, attribute their life success to their time being on the team.

“The fact that we can analyze a proposition quickly, see two sides to a proposal, and are able to articulate an argument on short notice has made us stand out as ‘leaders’ in the organizations we have been committed to over the years,” said Nine. “It has become obvious to us that people think we are ‘smarter’ than we are, and the fact that we are admired for having these skills is a direct result of our early training in debate.”

Current student Alex Azzopardi credits his academic development to the team’s inclusivity and the exposure to new concepts and ideas that he gained through the program.

“This program has opened my eyes to so many new ideas and concepts that I feel I would have never gotten the opportunity to see and explore without its existence,” said Azzopardi. “The program has offered me a creative and educational outlet that has assisted me in both academia and my personal life.”

To help pay tribute to the program’s centennial year, the WSU Forensic Union celebrated its anniversary during the 84th Annual Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha Student Award Banquet and alumni reunion. The three-day event was held June 29-July 1 and featured guest speaker Dr. Kevin Minch, coach, national award-winning debater and individual events competitor.

For more information about the speech and debate teams, www.wsuforensics.org.
Celebrating
90 years of dance

1935, Wayne University students participate in a dance class.

Ninety years ago this year, dance began at Wayne State University. That same year the present Maggie Allessee Department of Theatre and Dance’s namesake, Maggie Allessee, was born. Little did anyone know that this nascent dance program and this newborn child would grow to become the two great forces in the dance world that they are today. Through Maggie Allessee’s generous gifts, the dance program receives accolades not only for longevity but also for outstanding student dancers and choreographers as well as talented, engaged, creative, and dedicated faculty and staff.

The student dancers have been invited to perform multiple times as part of the American Dance Association’s event at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C. The dance program hosts two summer dance intensives and performs multiple concerts each year, including December Dance at one of Detroit’s landmark venues, the Music Hall Center for Performing Arts.

Dance students continue to look to the Maggie Allessee Department of Theatre and Dance for their education. Highly competitive auditions are held three times annually for aspiring dancers. The program continues to build on the foundation laid ninety years ago and bolstered by a great friend and advocate born that same year. It was a dance match made in heaven.

Please join us for one or more of the following anniversary celebrations:

**NOEL NIGHT**
Dec. 1, 2018
Allessee Dance Theatre

**DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT**
December 7 and 8, 2018
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts

**BFA DANCE SENIOR CAPSTONE**
January 11 and 12, 2019
Allessee Dance Theatre

**DANCE WORKSHOP**
February 1 through 3, 2019
Allessee Dance Theatre

**TO SANGANA AFRICAN DANCE CONCERT**
February 16 and 17, 2019
Allessee Dance Theatre

**90TH ANNUAL SPRING DANCE CONCERT**
March 1 and 2, 2019
Bonstelle Theatre

theatreanddance.wayne.edu
University Art Collection expands thanks to a grant and generous donors

A recently awarded Collections Assessment for Preservation grant will assist in establishing new ways to improve methods of care for the University Art Collection. This preservation initiative will ultimately provide ways to maximize limited storage space and allow for future growth of the collection. Expanding the collection to reflect the rich diversity of the university and the surrounding community is a primary goal.

“Thanks to the hard work and efforts of former Collections Curator Sandra Schenske, the collection is now poised for tremendous growth and change,” said Art Collections Curator Grace Serra.

When the University Art Collection was founded in 1969, it consisted of 127 works of art, assembled by former university Curator and Professor Emeritus Richard Biliatis. Over the years, through the combined efforts of artists, collectors, curators and patrons, the collection has grown artistically, geographically, and culturally to represent more than 6,000 works of art from the early 20th century to present day. This extensive collection has steadily grown to reflect the regional landscape of art making and collecting over the past half century. The University Art Collection is recognized for holding the world’s largest and most comprehensive collection of Detroit Cass Corridor Art, the famous counter cultural art movement that originated at Wayne State University in the 1960s. This art collection has earned respect in the community for its scholarly survey of Detroit art, fulfilling a collection need not met elsewhere. This unique collection reinforces Wayne State University’s standing as an important center for contemporary arts in the city of Detroit.

photos:
this page. Roadside Tondo, Nancy Pietos, c. 1985 Photographed by: Tim Thayer Photography
next page (clockwise from top left): Dennis Nawrocki, Wayne State University Alumnus (BFA, MFA, MEd) Photographed by Donita Simpson,
Gilda Snowden, Wayne State University Alumna (BFA, MFA, MEd) Photographed by: Donita Simpson, Untitled, Gilda Snowden, c. 1987, Mixed Media,
Marine Light Study, Gordon Newton, 1988-89 Photographed by: Tim Thayer Photography
Continuing to Give - Nawrocki Gift

The collection’s steady growth over the past fifty years is a direct result of Detroit’s engaged arts community. Many works, acquired as gifts, reflect the world-class talent of regional artists and the keen eye and passion of local art collectors. One recent gift to the collection represents this perfectly.

An early planned gift, precipitated by a move of over 48 works of art, has been made by Wayne State University’s esteemed alumnus and faculty member, Dennis Alan Nawrocki. This gift accompanies an earlier 2014 gift of 35 works of art.

Nawrocki, a staunch supporter and champion of Detroit art and artists, amassed a remarkable art collection of predominately Detroit Cass Corridor art for almost 50 years. “This gift is representative of some of the most important and interesting Detroit artists and clearly reflects that artists in Detroit have always remained on the cutting edge of mainstream art,” said Serra.

Along with these great works of art, Nawrocki has provided a wealth of archival information associated with the artwork and artists. Wayne State is a nationally recognized research institution and this gift will provide fertile material for future research in the arts. This extraordinary archive will provide a rare insight into the cultural, intellectual and personal context of the collector, and each artist’s career. The works of art and the associated documents will be essential in preserving the legacy of these artists and their connection to Detroit and Wayne State University.

Preserving Legacy - Gilda Snowden Estate Gift

The mission of the Gilda Snowden Estate is to preserve and promote the legacy of one of Detroit’s most important and celebrated artists. This mission aligns closely with the spirit of the University Art Collection and is one of the reasons why the Snowden Estate, managed by Gilda Snowden’s husband, daughter and sisters, chose the University Art Collection for a new gift. As a complement to two paintings already gifted by the estate in 2017, this new gift of five large-scale assemblages will provide a more comprehensive look at the artist’s wide ranging repertoire of painting styles. Snowden received her BFA and MFA from Wayne State University and is considered one of the most important second-generation Cass Corridor artists.

“These are gifts that will continue to impact future generations and will serve as a reminder of the important contributions made by artists in this community,” explains Serra. “The breadth and depth of the University Art Collection continues to grow with the ongoing support of so many whose lives have been touched by the University.”
Faculty Spotlights

Vincent Chandler  Lecturer, Jazz Studies
Department of Music

Vincent Chandler (MM, University of Michigan) is a native Detroiter and protégé of some of the best known musicians from one of the strongest eras of the Detroit jazz scene. Chandler has studied and/or performed with local heroes such as Donald Walden, Kenn Cox, Harold McKinney and Matt Michaels and internationally with jazz legends such as Herbie Hancock, Marcus Miller, Joe Henderson, Clark Terry and Marcus Strickland among many others. Chandler is a featured soloist on “Requiem,” from Roy Hargrove’s only Big Band CD called “Emergence,” James Carter’s “At the Crossroads,” and Rodney Whitaker/Carl Allen’s “Work to Do.” In 2014, he released his first CD as a bandleader titled “Embraceable,” including Robert Hurst on bass.

Chandler constantly reminds his students that their “level of success will be a direct reflection of your work ethic!”

Kelly Donnellan  Associate Professor, Media Arts and Studies
Department of Communication

Kelly Donnellan (MFA, American University, Washington DC) is an award winning documentary editor and director. She has edited over 50 short films, including the award winning short documentary I Throw Rocks! in 2016, as well as the Student Academy Award winning short documentary Dying Green in 2012. Donnellan’s directorial effort, I is Another, earned the Best Female Director-Woman to Watch Award from the Underexposed Film Festival in 2013.

Donnellan brings her production and post-production experience into the classroom through demonstrations, technical exercises and hands on projects. She emphasizes practical acquisition of production skills on various cameras (Canon T7i, XA-30 and 7D), audio recorders (Zoom H4N, H6N), microphones and lighting equipment. She also highlights Avid Media Composer editing software proficiency.

“I believe that my job doesn’t end after students have left my classroom. That’s when I morph into a mentor.”

Joo Won Park  Assistant Professor, Music Technology
Department of Music

Joo Won Park (PhD, University of Florida) performs live with toys, consumer electronics, kitchenware, vegetables, and other non-musical objects by digitally processing their sounds. In 2015, a review from the Wall Street Journal noted that Park performed a recital of live electro-acoustical works in which his instrumentarium included Lego pieces, chattering teeth and a Slinky. Park draws inspirations from Florida swamps, Philadelphia skyscrapers, his two sons, and other soundscapes surrounding him. His distinctive way of developing music through a variety of objects creates a unique and exclusive teaching and learning experience for students. Park can also be found directing the Electronic Music Ensemble at Wayne State (EMEWS), an undergraduate ensemble touring multiple states. His music and writings are available on MIT Press, Parma Recordings, ICMC, Spectrum Press, Visceral Media, SEAMUS and No Remixes labels.

“Joo Won Park wants to make every day sound beautiful and strange so that every day becomes beautiful and strange.”
Siobhan Gregory  Senior Lecturer, Industrial Design
James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History

Siobhan Gregory (MFA, University of Illinois Chicago) is an industrial designer and design anthropologist, living and working in Detroit. Her research focuses on the progress of human-centered design and social design. In the business sector, she uses anthropological methods to inform consumer insights research to help organizations form meaningful connections through products, services and brand messaging. Siobhan got her start as an automotive designer for General Motors working in advanced and pre-production studios and in the areas of marketing and brand strategy. She later made a career change to become the lead women’s footwear designer for the Keds Corporation. Additionally, she is committed to various grassroots organizers in her neighborhood of Jefferson Chalmers, helping them to realize their visions with design, writing and web support.

“WSU students today are in a great position to leverage the dynamic environment of their school and their city to create their own unique paths in life and in work.”

Rahul Mitra  Assistant Professor, Communication Studies
Department of Communication

Rahul Mitra (PhD, Purdue University) focuses his research on how organizations and communities enact environmental sustainability. He leads the Resilient Institutions and Sustainable Environments (RISE) Lab at WSU, which is comprised of five research teams examining issues ranging from entrepreneurial ecosystems for urban resilience to sense making around water access among underserved communities. In 2018, he was awarded the Linda L. Putnam Early Career Award by the Organizational Communication Division of the International Communication Association, which honors a scholar who “has made a significant contribution to the field of organizational communication and shows promise for continued development.” Mitra has published more than 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries, and his co-edited book *Movements in Organizational Communication: Current Issues and Future Directions* (Routledge) will appear in print in 2019.

“My research always hinges on real problems faced by real people on the ground, so that I always ask “so what?” before taking on a new project or using theory to analyze an issue.”

Heather Macali  Assistant Professor, Fashion and Fibers
James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History

As a contemporary fiber artist, Heather Macali (MFA, University of Wisconsin-Madison) has focused primarily on color, pattern, texture, distortion and memory. Her use of color and pattern arose out of childhood experiences steeped in the popular material culture of the Midwest in the 1980s and early 1990s. Macali's work has been exhibited across the country and internationally. Her work has also been published in two books: *Digital Jacquard Design* by Julie Holyoke and Textiles: The Art of Mankind* by Mary Schoeser. Macali has also worked in the fashion industry for four years as a textile designer at Abercrombie and Fitch and Limited Brands. 

“I have encouraged critical dialogue between students and provide the environment where cross culture learning is inspired from within.”
Connecting Creativity

Creative Warriors in the community

From Model Ts to Motown, Detroit has a rich history of visionary thinking — and at Wayne State University, we embrace the opportunity to explore different ideas through creative, outside-of-the-box approaches. Passionate about sharing their talents with others, Warriors are enriching communities and fostering artistic expression.

A smooth start

In 2007, Wayne State’s Department of Music launched one of these talent-sharing enterprises — a long-term partnership with the University Art Collection. It was important to the Plochockis that the artist be of Polish descent, a woman, and a Wayne State alumna. In 2016, Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman (MA ’81 and MFA ’83) was selected by the Wayne State University Art Collections’ committee to create a portrait sculpture of Madame Marie (Sklodowska) Curie.

“It has been an honor to work with Steve and Linda Plochocki on this project celebrating Madame Curie and highlighting the talent of Ms. Bachorski-Bowman,” said College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts Dean Matthew W. Seeger. “Steve has always been an leader and extremely generous person. Steve and Linda Plochocki have also established a scholarship in the Department of Communication. The Steven T. Plochocki Endowed Scholarship in Communication supports outstanding students pursuing a career in communications much like Steve. This type of support from our alumni is invaluable.”

The official unveiling of the portrait sculpture took place on Wednesday, October 10, with a private reception.

Journalism alumnus and wife commission bust of Madame Curie for WSU’s Polish Room

Through the generosity of Steven T. Plochocki (BA Journalism ’73) and Linda Plochocki, the Polish Room in Manoogian Hall now features a bronze portrait sculpture of Madame Marie (Sklodowska) Curie.

In 2013, Steve Plochocki was presented Wayne State University’s Distinguished Alumni Award. During that 2013 trip back to campus, Linda and Steve toured the Polish Room and noticed that there was something missing. The Polish Room is a place on Wayne State’s campus that celebrates Polish heritage and houses various works of art reflecting Polish culture. Until this week, it lacked artwork celebrating and representing the accomplishments of great Polish women.

Madame Curie, who was born in Warsaw, Poland, was not only a pioneer in the field of radioactivity but also the first woman to win the Nobel Prize, and the first and only woman to win it twice. Linda and Steve felt that Madame Curie deserved a place in the Polish Room and commissioned the artwork with a generous donation to the University Art Collection. It was important to the Plochockis that the artist be of Polish descent, a woman, and a Wayne State alumna. In 2016, Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman (MA ’81 and MFA ’83) was selected by the Wayne State University Art Collections’ committee to create a portrait sculpture of Madame Marie (Sklodowska) Curie.

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L to R: Vice President of Development & Alumni Affairs and President of the WSU Foundation Susan Burns, Steven and Linda Plochocki, Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman, CFPCA Dean Matthew Seeger, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Keith Whitfield.
Department of Communication alumna recognized as a Ford “Thirty Under 30” fellow

**Christiana Lumaj: Raising Awareness**

Christiana Lumaj, 26, joined Ford in 2016 and currently works as executive communications coordinator. Lumaj graduated from Wayne State with a bachelor’s in nutrition and food science in 2014 and with a second bachelor’s in public relations in 2016.

Lumaj first worked with homeless shelters while an undergrad at Wayne State. Starting as a receptionist at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac, she used her talent for public relations to coordinate a “Homeless Awareness Month” campaign and write newsletters. Later, she was also placed with the Judson Center-Royal Oak as part of its Young Leaders Board. The Judson Center is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive services to children and families that are impacted by abuse and neglect, autism, developmental disabilities and mental health challenges so that they can become successful in their communities. There, Lumaj used social media and other marketing tools to raise awareness about life-skills services that the Judson Center provides.

After being recruited by Ford, Lumaj felt compelled to apply for the Thirty Under 30 fellowship. Lumaj said that the opportunity has given her the chance to work for Ford and with a nonprofit organization that has a mission that is very important to her — finding solutions for homelessness.

“Homelessness is not a one-size-fits-all problem, so there’s no one-size-fits-all solution,” said Lumaj.

As part of her fellowship, Lumaj has been partnered with Cass Community Social Services, which are best known for their Tiny Homes project. Lumaj said that despite being a part of this fellowship and holding weekly meetings with her team to drive toward a solution, she and the other fellows are not trying to “fix” anything at Cass Community Social Services. Instead, Lumaj and her team hope to bring a unique perspective into the potential and current pool of solutions.

This year, the Thirty Under 30 class includes three additional Wayne State University alumni, young professionals who will join others in an effort to creatively combat issues related to homelessness — all while tapping into the emerging leaders’ volunteerism and leadership skills. To learn more about the other talented Warriors making an impact visit, wayne.edu/news.

Written by: Brittanii Lyons, current CFPCA journalism major graduating in May 2019

L to R: Lani Duffy, Westin Pulizzi, Christiana Lumaj and Kevin Zurek.
Creative Ambassador

a new volunteer opportunity

The Creative Ambassador program is a volunteer opportunity for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA) alumni, student and friends to share CFPCA news and information utilizing social media through a platform called Social Toaster. When Creative Ambassadors sign up to participate in the program, they have the opportunity to interact through their own personalized Social Toaster dashboards. Participation is rewarded through a sweepstakes where participants can earn points for posting to social media. In turn, these points are converted into entry points towards a drawing for premium CFPCA prize packages. There are three prize packages awarded each semester.

The Creative Ambassadors program is a way for our alumni, faculty, staff and students to support the college using social media,” said CFPCA Alumni and Donor Relations Officer Patrick Field. “This digital/virtual volunteer program allows our Creative Ambassadors to connect with, promote and share the college news and info while, at the same time, earning the chance to win awesome SWAG packs of branded CFPCA and WSU merchandise.”

For more information on how you can become a Creative Ambassador, visit cfpcawayne.socialtoaster.com and don’t forget to follow the college on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. #CreativeWarriors

Wayne State’s second annual Giving Day was a major success

On Thursday, April 12, more than 900 members of the Wayne State community contributed more than $411,000 to support university priorities — an 81 percent increase in dollars and a 43 percent increase in donors over WSU’s inaugural Giving Day last year.

Nearly every school and college had special gift match challenges, supporting projects for a wide variety of impact areas, including student success, community engagement, and faculty and research support.

A thank you goes out to all of the CFPCA alumni who supported Wayne State Giving Day. This year’s success would not be possible without your help.

The next Giving Day is April 11, 2019. Please mark your calendars for your chance to Inspire Opportunity and support CFPCA.
In Memoriam

Edward Pappas (1931-2018)
Dr. Edward J. Pappas was a master teacher who took even a basic course to a new level. From 1973-1990 as a department chair first of the Department of Speech, Communication, Theatre and Journalism in the College of Liberal Arts and then, the Department of Communication in the newly formed College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, Pappas guided and motivated faculty and students to pursue excellence. Under his leadership, the department accelerated its growth and visibility to become a nationally recognized center for communication research and teaching. In addition to his expertise in communication, Pappas lectured broadly on baseball to academic and public audiences alike. His expertise was such that he co-authored a book with his friend Professor Wil Linkugel of the University of Kansas, They Tasted Glory: Among the Missing at the Baseball Hall of Fame (1998.)

“Ed’s contribution to Wayne State University cannot be overstated. For 60 years he influenced generations of students through his dedication, warmth, practical wisdom and tenacity.”
—Matthew Seeger, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts professor and dean

Anthony “Tony” Schmitt (1938-2018)
Dr. Tony Schmitt was a long-time professor and director who spent much of his drama career at Wayne State University. He joined the theatre program in 1978 and headed the graduate acting area until his retirement in 2001. During those 24 years, he directed more than 70 productions for the Bonstelle, Hilberry, and summer seasons. Tony also returned to direct productions for the department as a guest professor emeritus director. Perhaps most notable was his direction of “Nicholas Nickleby” in 1987-88 for the theatre program’s 25th Anniversary season, which set a new standard.

“He just understood theater — all the different facets. That’s what made him a really good director. He was very versatile and knowledgeable.”
—Blair Anderson, associate professor and former Maggie Allessee Department of Theatre and Dance chair

Robert Wilbert (1929-2016)
Robert Wilbert was a representational painter who frequently worked in the traditional genres of still life, landscape, and figural composition. Over the course of 60 years in Detroit, he gained recognition as an influential figure within the city’s art community. Wilbert began teaching at Wayne State University in 1956 as an assistant professor. He became associate professor in 1964 and full professor in 1970. In 1994 he was designated professor emeritus and elected to the university’s Academy of Scholars.

“Robert was a seminal figure in the Detroit art community and his influence continues to be widely felt. Among his numerous accolades, Robert’s work was celebrated at the Scarab Club in Detroit, where he signed one of the famous second floor ceiling beams. His presence on that beam is an significant touch stone for all of us in Detroit.”
—Brian Kitzman, James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History associate professor and interim chair