

THE SOUTHEND

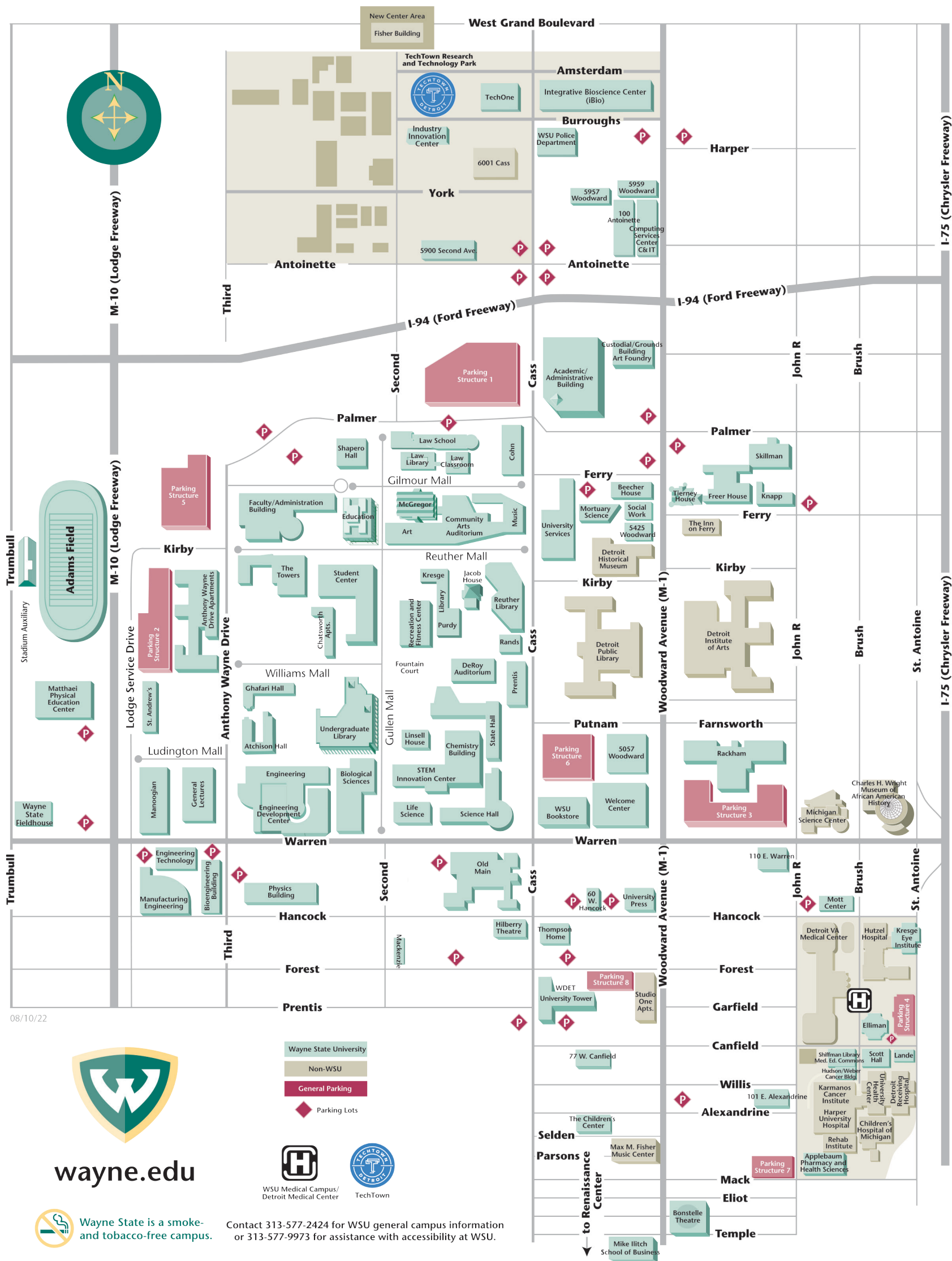


SPRING 2024

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center offers community**
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Contact 313-577-2424 for WSU general campus information or 313-577-9973 for assistance with accessibility at WSU.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The South End welcomes letters to the editors regarding all inquiries and concerns from the Wayne State community. Please limit letters to no more than 250 words. All submissions are subject to editing and may or may not be published.

CORRECTIONS

The South End corrects all factual errors published online and in print.

ONLINE POLICY

The South End publishes articles online and in print. Visit our website to read online articles, submit letters to the editor, advertise with us and more at thesouthend.wayne.edu. While we support the right to free speech and expression, there are guidelines for morally and socially acceptable content. Comments and feedback deemed offensive are subject to editing or removal.

PUBLICATION

The South End is a daily online publication created by Wayne State students. The South End publishes special print editions at the beginning and end of the academic year. Copies of the print edition will be available free of charge at various locations throughout campus. Business operations are handled through the Dean of Students Office. All complaints, comments and suggestions concerning the student newspaper should be directed to thesouthend@wayne.edu.

A Letter from the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor



*TSE's Editor-in-Chief, Madeline Beck
Photo by Ciaran Martin*



*TSE's Managing Editor, Natalie Davies
Photo by Ciaran Martin*

Happy spring Warriors!

It's hard to believe yet another semester is coming to a close. It's been our privilege to be by your side reporting on campus happenings throughout the year.

We've grown a lot this year as a publication. We brought home five Apple Awards from the College Media Association Conference in New York City, expanded on the number of contributing writers bringing their talent to our coverage, solidified the sports, features and advertisement sections, posted incoming news daily, produced a podcast, created new social media channels and more. We couldn't have done any of it without the support of our fellow Warriors. Our motto is that we are journalists first, but Warriors always.

Each year, a new group of students gets to take charge of the newspaper and mold the events that unfold within the University. As a result, The South End continues to grow and change alongside the team members that work to report on what matters. Wayne State is one of the most diverse universities in the state and offers a plethora of exciting stories to tell. Every interviewee, writer, editor, producer and so on bring new perspectives to the table, and we are better as a publication because of the feedback we receive from students and faculty. As leaders of the student newspaper this year, we've learned from the community about how to spread news that matters. We will carry these lessons with us long after graduation.

While we may work at The South End, the newspaper is meant to be a platform for the WSU community. It doesn't belong to us, but rather to the students, faculty members and WSU community members that read and care about the stories we cover. Our job is not to tell you how we feel or what you should think, but to tell you how others feel and to create discussion around important ideas, groups and events. Our goal is to amplify your voices, not create a narrative of our own. Our voice is the voice of the people quoted in our stories, partaking in events, creating artwork, marching in protests, playing sports, sharing successes, talking about problems, responding to emergencies, performing in shows, making University decisions, reacting to University decisions and spending their time at WSU contributing to something bigger than themselves.

Thank you for letting us tell your stories.

With Warrior pride,

Madeline Beck

Editor-in-Chief

Natalie Davies

Managing Editor

A Letter from President Espy

Dear Wayne State University students,

Having returned to campus after spring break and looking ahead to commencement, I hope you are filled with the same sense of energy and excitement that permeated our recent presidential investiture ceremony. In the last eight months of service as your president, the best part of my job, without a doubt, has been meeting and interacting with so many of you. You inspire me every day with your individual, personal stories, which share common threads of curiosity, creativity, and perseverance.

During the investiture, I introduced Wayne State's Prosperity Agenda, a framework of purpose and action that animates the "Our Moment in Time" strategic plan, and aims to strengthen both our institution and our city and state, as we enter together Wayne State University's next chapter. It's not a new brand or a tagline, and certainly not something that will sit on the shelf; rather, the Prosperity Agenda drive us forward in fulfilling our shared promise to better the lives of all students, support our remarkable faculty in pushing the boundaries of knowledge and innovation further, and strengthen the bonds that interconnect Wayne State so closely with the Detroit community.

You can read more about the Prosperity Agenda on my website -- at its heart are three pillars:

1. Accelerate Mobility for Our Students: We recognize the power of a Wayne State education to positively alter students' life trajectories, fostering generational change and societal advancement. We serve a uniquely diverse student body and provide access and success to underserved communities, supported by our top-tier faculty's engaging teaching methods and "learning by doing" academic experiences that cultivate the needed knowledge and competencies that prepare our graduates for successful careers and lives.

2. Empower Health for Our Urban Neighborhoods: Wayne State plays a vital role in the health of Detroiters, serving in all major Detroit health systems, and providing care in community hubs all over the city. By unleashing our faculty, students and university leaders to engage even further with our community, we can expand cutting-edge care and address entrenched health disparities to build healthier, more resilient neighborhoods in Detroit and beyond.

3. Fuel Innovation for Our Competitiveness: Our university is filled with great ideas, and through innovation and entrepreneurship, we can propel Michigan's competitiveness in 21st century commerce. Through translating great ideas from scholarly research into new technologies, medicines and practices and coupled with support of TechTown, WSU's Research and Technology Park, and engagement with local employers, we can cultivate a campus that is "open for business," to create more solutions to the challenges endemic to urban areas and ensure a robust economy that benefits all.



Wayne State's 13th president Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy during the investiture. Photo provided by Matt Lockwood.

Each of these pillars represents a shared commitment to our university community, and you play such an essential role in this endeavor. As students, your active engagement is crucial to the success of Wayne State's Prosperity Agenda... and if we unite around the themes and actions that it will inspire, the possibilities for us are truly endless.

Together, we can further Wayne State as the university that serves as an engine of opportunity, driving Detroit-powered prosperity for all. I am so grateful for your continued support, and I look forward to working for -- and alongside -- each of you as we turn this transformational purpose into a reality.

In closing and looking ahead to next year, please fill out your 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form as soon as possible to ensure that you are eligible for all available financial aid and scholarships. This year's redesigned FAFSA is much shorter and easier to complete. Unfortunately with the redesigned form, the US federal government is delayed in providing the necessary data back to universities to finalize your financial aid packages. Filling out your FAFSA now will allow Wayne State to work with you to address any possible issues, so that your financial aid can be disbursed before the fall 2024 semester begins in August.

Together we are WARRIOR STRONG.

Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy

President
Wayne State University

NEWS



**Former Provost
Kornbluh retires
pg. 11**

*Wayne State's Student Center on a sunny March day.
Photo by Multimedia Editor Andy Jeffrey.*

Students and faculty share perspectives on disability at WSU

By Marie Moore



An out of order elevator located in Old Main. Photo by Multimedia Editor Andy Jeffrey.

Wayne State students and faculty shared their experiences and advice on living with a disability at WSU, including struggles and triumphs faced within Student Disability Services.

Cherise Frost, WSU's Director of Student Disability Service, said SDS's long-term directives include encouraging inclusive and cohesive class designs.

"One of the main things that we've focused on is trying to encourage our departments and colleges on campus to universally design their programs... so that from the onset, they're very inclusive and that doesn't leave out a lot of people," Frost said. "It (the class design) includes various ways to demonstrate the information or to submit the information or to learn the information which kind of captures the needs of a lot of people more broadly."

Frost said SDS's biggest triumph in recent years is a new TRIO Student Support Services grant that aids in the funding of SDS.

"In the past, I'd have this thought that I wanted to help my students more than just give them their accommodation letter when I was a disability specialist," Frost said. "For some people, I did have opportunities to put in more, but it wasn't built into what I do."

Frost said the grant not only provides resources for the SDS program academically, but allows for a more well-rounded approach to aiding disabled students in the University.

"We did a collaboration with Career Services to hold a conference to give people an opportunity to discuss with a panel of an employer, a student going through an internship, the Office of Equal Opportunity, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services, all about disclosing disability, getting accommodations, the employment world and just a variety of things," Frost said. "We put on a financial aid workshop, had cultural experiences where we went to the DIA - things where we're supporting the student more holistically."

Frost said one of the biggest struggles faced by the department was how the COVID-19 pandemic affected learning and students themselves.

"COVID changed things a lot, and some of the areas that they've changed in, it's like we can't put a name to it," Frost said. "But things are just different and that transition back to in-person, that year and a half, just changed so much. It almost feels like a change to the chemistry of people."

"They (the students) were thrust into online learning, maybe their senior or junior year. And so the last part of those really formative years was just completely different," Frost said. "So trying to re-engage students post COVID and trying to meet them where they are, is just different."

Louie Alkasmikha, a graduate student studying English with a focus in disability and identity studies, urged students to be knowledgeable on the resources available for them to use.

"The best thing is to understand the University or the college you're going to," Alkasmikha said. "What does that mean? Know your resources. Where's the disability office? Where's tutoring? Where's counseling if you need assistance? Where's the Welcome Center if you want to drop a course? That all makes everything way easier than coming here, first day on campus, not knowing anything."

Alkasmikha encouraged those in the community to adapt to the struggles they are faced with in a way best suited to each student's individual needs.

"When you graduate, life goes back and hits you. When you're young you're thinking about changing everything, and that's not how it works," Alkasmikha said. "You got to learn to carve a way to get around the system. See how it works, make life more accessible for you in your terms."

Alkasmikha urged people to remember the reality of the world we are in.

"Remember, you fix things, but they're gonna break eventually. Expect that, but they're not gonna fix it again, unless there is a return on investment," Alkasmikha said. "If it doesn't just help the disabled population, but everyone, and if it's worth it, it's gonna be done. But if you think 'we want this and this and this' and believe it's gonna happen, that everything's gonna change, maybe you'll get applauded, but that's it."

Emilia Fraley, a communication studies major, said structural inaccessibility poses a struggle for those with disabilities.

"Peers and professors have typically been kind and accommodating. My most significant struggle at WSU has been structural inaccessibility, both physical and otherwise," Fraley said.

Fraley said several physical barriers remain present on campus.

"Many of the sidewalks are pocked with holes and cracks, and cars and dumpsters are allowed to be stationed blocking curb ramps, both of which prevent me from using my wheelchair and force me to miss classes when I cannot walk," Fraley said.

Fraley said some University curriculum falls short when it comes to disability education.

"There is also a noticeable lack of study or reading materials on disability within the communication and sociology curriculums," Fraley said.

According to WSU's University accessibility website, accessibility "embraces all aspects of the University community."

"These include electronic and information technology accessibility, instructional materials, collaborative experiences and interactions, and the physical university environment," the website reads. "All students, faculty, staff, and community members are encouraged to support this commitment by infusing these considerations in their courses, scholarship, events, collaborations, and all other work at the university."

For issues with barriers on campus, students and WSU community members are encouraged to submit tips through WSU's barrier reporting form. For issues regarding digital accessibility and other concerns, community members can contact accessibility@wayne.edu, or visit accessibility.wayne.edu to learn more.

WSU's campus reacts to Israel's war on Gaza

By Theresa De Benedetti

Decades of tension between Israel and Palestine reached a turning point in October after the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, leaving 250 dead and 1,500 injured, according to the Associated Press.

Since Oct. 7, Israel's war on Gaza has killed more than 33,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The Health Ministry said around two thirds of that number, which accounts for losses as of April 2, is made up of women and children.

Several groups and student organizations at WSU have voiced their support for Palestine, advocating for action and awareness around Detroit and on campus.

October

On Oct. 9, Students for Justice in Palestine painted the campus Spirit Rock with the Palestinian flag, but were met with resistance from others on campus who painted over the flag. In a statement released on Instagram, SJP said the rock was painted over within five hours, despite University policy that dictates organizations must allow 24 hours in between paintings.

"When members of SJP explained the University policies, they were told 'you know they're (Wayne State) not on your side.' After (the) vandalizing (of) the spirit rock, SJP members went back to fix the vandalism," SJP said in the statement. "During this time, the Zionists attempted to vandalize the Spirit Rock again. The attempt included physically assaulting a Palestinian foreign exchange student, and spray painting SJP members."

SJP partnered with the Social Justice Society, Yemeni Student Association and Multi-Cultural Association on Oct. 23 to host a vigil to honor the lives lost in Palestine. The SJP co-president gave the updated death toll of Palestinians, which at the time was 5,791 people, according to the Washington Post.

"These aren't just numbers, they're not just statistics," the SJP co-president said. "Each one of them are living, breathing beings whose lives were taken too soon, and punished... just for being born on the land that they're indigenous to."

November

President Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D., sent an email addressing the campus community on Nov. 2 in response to reports of religious hatred, antisemitism and Islamophobia. In the email, Espy said the University takes concerns seriously and were taking concrete steps to address them.

"Much like the hatred directed at Asian Americans and Blacks that occurred during the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, Jewish, Arab American and Muslim students have reported incidents of religious hatred, antisemitism and Islamophobia. This is not acceptable," Espy said in the email. "It comes during a week



WSU students and community members in support of Palestine protest BOG meeting on Dec. 7. Photo by Theresa De Benedetti.

when FBI director Christopher Wray testified about historic levels of antisemitism and reported that more than 60% of religiously based hate crimes are directed at Jews, who make up 2.4% of the population. Nationally, there has been a three-fold increase in bias incidents against Muslims, prompting the federal government to develop a national strategy on Islamophobia."

In an email sent the following day, Espy apologized for her use of the words "Blacks" in the initial email.

"I am so grateful that Student Senate President Hayden Johnson and others brought to our attention the problematic use of the word 'Blacks' — I can understand how this wording is insensitive and inappropriate. I am sorry for the poor phrasing," Espy said in the Nov. 3 email. "It occurred in the haste of editing an important message that we felt was urgent to send; we should have been more careful. The language we should have used is 'members of the Black community' which captures the breadth and diversity of the Black diaspora. This error will be corrected and will appear in any subsequent online posting of the message."

The Student Senate passed a resolution at their general body meeting on Nov. 2 encouraging WSU's Board of Governors to adopt a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions approach toward companies with ties to Israel. The resolution was sponsored by Senator at Large Zaynah Jadallah and Treasurer Ridaa Khan, and co-sponsored by Director of Government Affairs Fatima Yahya.

The resolution, which was passed as Senate Resolution 2324-03, states that the "University's investment consultant, Strategic Investment Group, is capable of aligning our investments with

our institutional values." The list of companies Senate encouraged BOG to divest from includes weapons manufacturers Boeing, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

"Wayne State University is invested in companies that profit from wars and human rights violations," the resolution reads. "Wayne State University Board of Governors placed a tobacco-free mandate for its separately managed accounts. Wherefore the university has a divestment mechanism capable of being applied to other industries."

Dean of Students and Senate Advisor David Strauss sent an email to the campus community on Nov. 3 in response to the resolution. Strauss said WSU encourages students to exercise their right to express their views.

"While we appreciate our students' activism, and support their right to express this view, it is important to note that this resolution does not represent the viewpoint of the University, nor does it represent all students at Wayne State, some of whom will find the language hurtful," the email read.

The South End received a response to the resolution from six individual student senators on Nov. 3. The document was signed by Senators Robert D. Alexander-Jordan, Dhruval Bhatt, Cordelia Krajewski, Batsheva Khaimov, Rupesh Kaviyasree Narayanan and Amulen Rozmus.

"We, the signatories to this letter, voted no on Resolution 2324-03, for the following Reasons: 1) We believe it is not within the scope and jurisdiction of the Student Senate to make statements or take action on international affairs. 2) We believe the passage of Resolution

2324-03 challenges Student Senate's mission of creating an inclusive and supportive university community and will lead members of the student body to feel excluded and unwelcome on campus," they said in the response.

December

Members of the campus community met to march and protest the BOG's response to Senate's divestment resolution. The protest took place outside of the BOG's Dec. 7 meeting, where protestors were joined by students who led a disruption inside the meeting.

Student Senator Ridda Kahn, who helped sponsor Senate's divestment resolution and voiced her concerns to members of the Board of Governors, said the Senate demanded a public meeting with the BOG to address divestment, but instead received a private email from President Espy saying the resolution was rejected.

"The administrative response to this resolution has been wholly insufficient and deliberately avoidant," Khan said. "Instead of saying, 'no, we will be continuing to invest in companies without specific ethical review to assess involvement in genocide,' we've heard that the words in the resolution could be hurtful to some, and that this is a pluralistic campus with diverse views, without actually connecting those responses to the content of the resolution."

Governor Mark Gaffney addressed student's concerns, saying the University doesn't want to take sides.

"We do know that the safety of our students as they consider their feelings about this – and as they let their feelings about the war in the Middle East and the repercussions be known – we think that their safety is primary. Also very important to us is our respect of our students," Gaffney said. "They have a right to demonstrate, they have a right to their feelings, and our job, I think, is to help them develop that."

Outside the meeting, community members marched from Gullen Mall to the Tech Town Garage where the meeting was hosted holding up signs and the Palestinian flag while shouting chants like "free Palestine."

In an email statement sent to The South End on Dec. 10, Associate Vice President of University Communications Matt Lockwood said the University appreciates students' passions and supports their right to speak freely on issues of concern.

"The BDS resolution from our Student Senate was discussed in detail among the Board, the president and other University leadership. We did respond to Student Senate's resolution and cannot at this time endorse changing our current investment strategy," Lockwood said in the email. "However, we emphasized that our role as a university was to support and encourage the free flow of ideas and promote a safe and inclusive learning environment for all members of our campus community."

On Dec. 15 the executive board of the Wayne Academic Union AAUP-AFT Local 6075 released a statement in support of a ceasefire in Palestine.

"We condemn all forms of racism and oppression including antisemitism, hatred of people of Jewish or Arab descent, Islamophobia, and the use of hate speech," the statement reads. "Wayne Academic Union supports an immediate ceasefire and the provision of water, fuel, food, and other aid to Gaza. A lasting peace must be negotiated based on international law and respect for human rights."

January

Members of the WSU community met in Keast Commons on Jan. 25 for the "Hands off Yemen" emergency protest in response to U.S. and U.K. bombings in Yemen. SJP organized the protest and collaborated with various WSU organizations, including the Yemeni Student Association, Black Student Union and Window Magazine.

Yemeni Student Association member and organizer Deena said with the seizing of U.S. and Israeli ships by the Houthis, Yemen has been met with retaliatory attacks backed by the U.S., Australia, U.K., Canada, the Netherlands and more.

"What a shame that one country standing against injustice is being singled out and charged by these large enemies. We (protesters) are standing here with the same goals, the same anger, supporting the same cause," Deena said. "It's like déjà vu (because) annually we have to stand here in the cold and protest due to American interference within our homelands."

February

By Any Means Necessary, or BAMN, met with members of the Wayne State community on Feb. 28 to march in support of Palestine. Following the protest, BAMN traveled to Washington D.C. to protest outside of the Israeli and Egyptian Embassies as part of the Global Day of Action on March 2.

Junior Caleb Mallery said more students at WSU need to start mobilizing, as not enough people on campus are talking about the issue.

"In my classes, nobody's talking about this issue," Mallery said. "Young people–this important issue to us, obviously we want to stop the genocide. We need to be talking to our classmates, we need to be talking to our colleagues and making sure that we're making our voices heard when it comes to this issue. We need more."

March

SJP hosted an introduction to BDS presentation on March 4 in the Student Center. The presentation was the precursor to the protest they planned for the Board of Governors Meeting later that week.

Khan said the BOG is well aware of what is happening in Palestine and how divestment works.

"They have divested in tobacco companies before, so they understand the idea of 'this company is unethical and we need to divest from them,'" Khan said. "Personally I think I would prefer (investment in) tobacco companies over war profiteering and war manufacturing companies."

Khan said they are currently looking for interested faculty to sign a letter of support for BDS.

President of Jewish Voice for Peace Bianca Garcia said BDS is not antisemitic like some may believe.

"A lot of people will say that BDS is antisemitic, that it goes against Jewish people or punishes people just for being Jewish. But as a Jewish person myself, I'm not Israeli and most non-Israeli Jewish people have no connection to Israel," Garcia said. "We have been conditioned to think that anything that's against the economic interests of the very few at the top is against all of us, and I just completely reject that notion."

SJP and community members met on March 6 in Gullen Mall to protest the Board of Governors meeting and the BOG's decision not to adopt Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions in response to Israel's war on Gaza. Protesters gathered outside the Student Center waiting for the planned disruption inside the BOG meeting to happen.

Khan said they wanted to disrupt the meeting because public comments and talking with administration hasn't worked.

"It is very apparent that they don't absorb any of those words, and that they don't take into consideration the content of what we're saying," Khan said. They kind of deflect to this tactic of saying, 'Oh, you guys are welcome to have free speech on campus. You guys can say whatever you want, and we support your right to free speech,' which basically is a method that allows them to deflect from the actual topic, which is that we want them to assess their investments that the school is making, that we (know they know) there's an actual content of the message that we're saying."

Khan said the BOG won't listen until their normal procedures and daily lives are interrupted.

"It's not violent, it's a method of protest. And we just want them to listen more than they are now and absorb our words and understand that the students do not want to attend a school that is investing in genocide," Khan said.



*A Palestinian flag waves above the flag of Yemen.
Photo by Theresa De Benedetti.*



WARRIOR REWARDS

Get involved on campus and in the city and earn Wayne State swag.
go.wayne.edu/warrior-rewards



EVERY WARRIOR HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND LEARN AT WSU – FREE FROM HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

TITLE IX

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX and by University policy.

To learn more about WSU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy, please visit the Title IX website.



To learn more about support resources and reporting options, connect with the Title IX office.

313-577-9999

TITLEIX@WAYNE.EDU

TITLEIX.WAYNE.EDU

REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Students may report sexual misconduct to law enforcement, to the university, to both, or to neither. All Warriors are encouraged to make the reporting decision that’s right for them.

REPORTING EMERGENCIES

In cases of threats, imminent danger and other emergencies, contact the Wayne State Police at 313-577-2222.

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

For confidential assistance, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 313-577-3398.

For after-hours and weekend support call 313-577-2277.

Former Provost Mark Kornbluh retires, Laurie Lauzon Clabo starts as new provost

By Natalie Davies

Mark Kornbluh, Ph.D., retired from his position as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs in February. An investigation into a whistleblower complaint filed in November, which resulted in Kornbluh's suspension, came back without findings.

"Regarding the investigation announced in November, we take seriously our duty to investigate allegations at the university," an email sent to the campus community Feb. 23 from the Office of the President said. "To address improper speculation, please note that the investigation did not involve allegations of sexual misconduct, misuse of funds or substance abuse, and was ceased without findings."

Kornbluh joined WSU's leadership team in June 2021, where WSU accomplishments under his leadership included a \$6 million award from the Mellon Foundation used to recruit and hire diverse new faculty and create the Detroit Center for Black Studies, the initiation of flat-rate tuition and the redesign of Fall Opening, the email said.

"During Mark's tenure, Wayne State University made significant gains in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, moving from No. 250 to 201 in the 2024 Best Colleges list," the email said. "Wayne State was also ranked in the top tier in social mobility by Third Way, a nationally recognized think tank."

Prior to working at WSU, Kornbluh taught and held positions at Michigan State University, Washington University, Rice University, Oklahoma State University, and most recently at University of Kentucky, where he served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for more than a

decade. Kornbluh was demoted from Dean to faculty member at UK in August 2020. Previous reporting by The South End found three equal opportunity complaints filed against him at UK.

Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Ph.D., filled in as interim provost following Kornbluh's suspension announced Nov. 10. The BOG unanimously approved Clabo as the new provost and senior vice president of academic affairs in its meeting on March 6.

The BOG electronically approved Clabo to begin her duties as provost on March 4, according to an email from President Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D., sent on March 1. Clabo will serve a three-year term.

Clabo served as the dean of the College of Nursing at WSU from March 2015 through 2024—with a break from August 2020 to July 2021 while she served as interim provost—and dean of the School of Nursing at the MGH Institute of Health Professions from 2010 to 2015 after receiving her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Rhode Island.

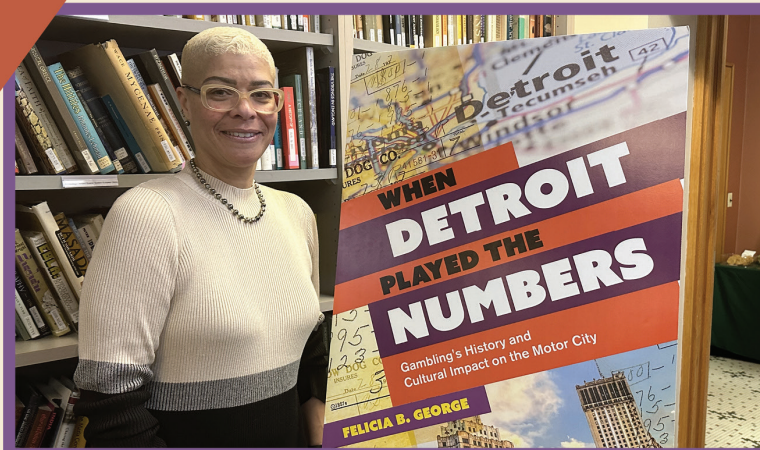
As a member of President Espy's board, Clabo will be serving as Espy's "second hand" and is considered the top academic officer at the University.

Espy said Clabo's experience makes her a good fit for the position.

"Laurie's years of dedication and history of accomplishments both in the College of Nursing and across the Wayne State community have positioned her as the right person to help guide our university during this crucial time," Espy said. "I have enjoyed working alongside her, and I look forward to continuing to partner with her to take Wayne State into its next era."



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South End Radio on Spotify!



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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



**An interview with the
Campus Activities Team
pg. 13**

*The exterior of WSU's art building.
Photo by Multimedia Editor Andy Jeffrey.*

Behind the activities: An interview with the CAT

By Luke McQueen

Wayne State's Campus Activities Team was founded in 2010. Since then, they have been running almost-weekly activities aimed at improving the lives of students and increasing engagement on campus.

President of CAT Nala Warren said the process of coming up with an idea for an activity involves more than simply collaborating as a team; it also involves input from students.

"We have five vice presidents who oversee coordinators who plan events. Since I am the president, I have meetings with all of the VPs and their coordinators to discuss all things CAT related and to make sure the event process runs smoothly," Warren said. "The way we come up with events is either a student has an idea or suggestion that is then further researched to see if it is possible to have for campus. If it is, then we start searching for necessary items, contacting vendors, booking locations and making sure we obtain everything needed for a successful event."

Vice President of Warrior Traditions Alec Cousino said his favorite events CAT runs are the ones that tug on the strings of nostalgia.

"I loved Carnival Night because it was thematic, and we created a unique event for students. A community member suggested the idea at a tabling event, and we took the idea and ran with it," Cousino said. "Many vendors, games and different activities were a part

of the event, which was well received by the student body. It was an older, nostalgic event to bring to students."

Vice President of Recruitment and Retention Lindsay Israil Spoke on the difficulties CAT runs across when hosting events.

"Trying to please everyone can be difficult," Israil said. "We do our best to please the entire student body with different events and reach out to different groups on campus to create inclusive programming opportunities."

CAT Advisor Catherine Latham said she hopes CAT helps bring people together.

"I hope that students feel a sense of community and Warrior Pride at our events," Latham said. "One of the biggest tenets of our mission is to create a sense of belonging on campus for students. If students leave an event with a smile on their face and a positive WSU memory, we're on the right track!"

Israil said students at WSU who are looking for a community on campus should consider joining CAT.

"If you'd like to get more involved on campus, join CAT," Israil said. "We create an inclusive community in our events and general meetings that is welcoming to all."

Old Main Records offers aspiring musicians an opportunity to thrive

By Madeline Beck

Old Main Records, Wayne State's student-led record label, provides a community for musicians and music-lovers alike to share in their passion for composition.

Old Main Records Co-President Katie Stozicki said the record label is for anyone who wants to learn more about the music industry.

"The goal of Old Main Records is to invite all students who have an interest in music and have an interest in getting involved with music business to come check us out and see what's going on and make those connections," Stozicki said. "It's really open to anyone. Sometimes it can be incredibly intimidating to get involved with music because it tends to be a very selective and competitive field."

The record label serves as a creative forum for students interested in music production, and currently meets every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in Old Main.

"There is a full recording studio on campus that we do use that is accessible to any of the artists that we sign free of charge," Stozicki said. "Sometimes we hang out in the recording studio if we're recording artists, and we want to give our members the chance to see what goes on behind the scenes. But most of the time, we're just meeting in Old Main."

Faculty advisor for Old Main Records Jeremy Peters, who also works as an assistant professor of music at WSU, said the label is useful for students looking to dip their toes into the world of music business.

"It's almost like a sandbox, a sort of laboratory, if you will, where students can get hands-on experience releasing music before they go and try to work in this industry later on," Peters said.

"There's an increasingly large group of people that are interested in participating in all the parts of the process of putting out a record. Going through and evaluating artist submissions, doing the marketing and promotion, doing all of the bits and pieces of making sure that a release is set up and organized, and so on and so forth."

Peters said his job as faculty advisor mainly involves serving as a mentor for students involved with Old Main Records.

"I worked for 14 years in the music industry before coming to Wayne State. I ran a music publishing company. I co-own a record label. I have a lot of practical experience running record labels (and) working in the music industry, so I can serve as a sounding board and maybe a mentor in some ways," he said. "Ultimately, my job with the organization is to not drive the creative direction, but just sit and help these budding music industry professionals who are interested in this think through issues, challenge assumptions and sort of come to a decision that makes sense both for the organization and for them creatively."

Dakotah Burse, a singer and guitarist for the band Eastwood Drive, said the label works with musicians to ensure song production is top quality.



Old Main Record's logo. Graphic provided by Old Main Records.

"We first heard about Old Main Records through a mutual friend that we have played shows with in the past," Burse said. "They have different producers, and they kind of set people with certain (producers)... we got to meet a lot of cool people. And the label is student run, but it doesn't really feel like a project – you can tell that it's really what they want to do with their lives. It's very professional."

Burse said he's loved music all his life, and he started a band when he was in high school.

"My whole life, I was obsessed with music. I moved to a new city my ninth grade year, and I met somebody who was just as interested in music as me. And that's my buddy Mike – he's our guitarist. We fell in love with music. And we shared that. And throughout high school, we were always wanting to really do something with it. And we were able to bring a couple more people into the band. And it kind of became almost like a family – we're like brothers. It's never just felt like something that is a hobby or something that we want to get rich off or anything. It's always been very comfortable."

Eastwood Drive describes themselves as "an indie rock band from Metro Detroit with notes of R&B, Psychedelic Rock and Heavy Metal." The band's newest single, "I Can't Remember," produced by Old Main Records, was released on all platforms on August 25.

Peters said Old Main Records has a lot of experience with independent rock, but is open to all sorts of works.

"I would say (we produce) independent rock and things that sort of center around that, although there is no sort of genre boundaries that we've drawn," Peters said. "I think it's also going to exist if we look at it long term as an outlet for people within the department of music – be that faculty or otherwise to release their creative projects."

Stozicki said that beyond bands, the label also works with solo artists.

"We've signed three bands, and we're currently in the process of signing a fourth artist," Stozicki said. "It doesn't necessarily need to be bands. We do duos, single artists, bands, whatever. And we kind of work through the recording process with students who are interested."

She said the process of producing a record starts with signing an artist.

"We start by opening up submissions for artists, if we don't have anyone that we're currently working with. And then we sit down as a group and we go through all the submissions, and then people vote on an anonymous form (for) who they would like to record," she said. "Then we go from there."

Stozicki said the time it takes to craft a finished record varies depending on the needs of the artist.

"We go through (contracts), we go through social media planning and graphic design. And it varies from artist to artist, because there's some artists we work with who already have everything together," Stozicki said. "Some of the other bands we've worked with... we did everything with them from scratch. We did the mixing, the mastering, the recording. So it just really depends on what the artists' needs are. And then we go through the release process. Our faculty advisor, Professor Peters, will walk us through that."

Outside of recording, Old Main Records is a club for students to talk about their interests and make connections, Stozicki said.

"We have a lot of cool members. One of our members just went to Japan to do live sound engineering. Over the summer, I was an extern with Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival," Stozicki said. "We have members who are interested in (doing) technical work with sound and instruments. So it's kind of an area for people to come together just to learn more about areas (of music), meet people, make connections and just bond over music."

Stozicki said students interested in getting involved with Old Main Records can DM the group on Instagram or email oldmainrecords@gmail.com.

"We want to be more prominent on campus and we are always looking for new members," she said. "We are looking for people who are interested in getting involved in leadership, people who are involved and interested in getting involved in social media, involved in writing. We have connections to get people involved with doing show reviews... (and) we have so many photographers, so there's a lot of cool opportunities for everyone."

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SPORTS

**WSU's swim and dive
team makes a splash
pg. 17**



*The exterior of Wayne State's Fieldhouse sits empty on a sunny day.
Photo by Multimedia Editor Andy Jeffrey.*

WSU's on-campus fitness center offers hub of recreation for WSU community

By Cris'stia Bowden

The Mort Harris Recreation and Fitness Center, Wayne State's own on-campus gym, offers exercise classes and intramural sports to students, faculty and members of the WSU community.

Associate Athletic Director Rob Latva said classes are year-round and for all skill levels.

"It can accommodate anyone who's just starting, to anyone who is expert level," he said.

The decision to implement year-round classes was initiated by Latva and Wellness Coordinator Carole Gist around 2017. The classes are aimed at addressing challenges the gym faced when semesters were ending and starting back up, including struggling to find instructors once a semester ended.

"It didn't make any sense, and we actually sat and looked at it like, we're just causing ourselves a lot more work and we're cutting off programming for about four to six weeks a year," Latva said. "Me and Carol sat down and said, why don't we just go to a year round schedule... We're open year round anyway, it's not like we close down at the holiday break, so why don't we just keep it going?"

Mort Harris provides space and equipment for students to engage in individual workouts and offers a variety of classes designed to accommodate different fitness levels and interests.

In addition to classes, the fitness center also provides opportunities for involvement in club and intramural sports.

Intramural sports involve friendly competitions within the University, while club sports feature more competitive organized teams competing against other schools' club teams.

The Motor City Munchkins, an intramural flag-football team led by David Obi and Ron and Kenneth McBride, participated in the fall 2023 season.

The team secured two wins and three losses against teams like Pi Kappa Alpha, Sweet Tards, The Prospects and more.

Obi, Ron and Kenneth decided to join the flag football team after seeing posters in the cafeteria and believed they had a chance to win.

Obi said there are usually five to ten players on each team in a regular season of five games. Afterwards all the teams go into playoffs, competing in quarterfinals, semi finals or finals.

Ron said one skill you need to have in order to play flag football is having a good routine.

"You have to be agile, you need to be fast and you have to have good team coordination," Ron said.

Beyond flag football, the MHRFC provides a range of club sports, including cheerleading.

Throughout the 2023-24 season, the cheer team has undergone many adjustments including staff changes and transitioning from a varsity sport to a club sport.

During this season, Zazearra Carter took on the position of head coach and cheerleader Elise Lubiarez said the team adjusted well to the change.

We've just faced a lot. We've gone from being a co-ed team to now being an all-girl team, so that was another big change that impacted how we did things. So we have gone through as many changes as you possibly could throughout a season... and I really think that we came out the other side as strong as we possibly could have."

As the team prepares for nationals in April, they are determined for success. Lubiarez said the team has been practicing four times a week in preparation for nationals.

"We did a lot of conditioning in the past few months, and so now we're finally seeing the fruits of our labor come together a little bit with the routine being finished up," Lubiarez said.

A sport WSU students eagerly want to see return is hockey. In 2008, WSU discontinued the men's hockey program, followed by the discontinuation of the women's hockey program in 2011 due to budget cuts.

Graduate student Sergei Nosovich was told in order to operate a hockey team at Wayne State, it would have to be a student-led organization.

"That's setting a team up for failure, if I'm being honest," he said. "I don't think that's the school intentionally trying to undermine a team's development,

but you need a head coach, someone managing equipment, someone handling back end finances of cost of equipment, ice rental, locker rooms, transportation, food, overnight stays. All of that can't be done by a student."

Latva said the commitment to the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association) is not easy.

"Most ACHA D1 teams are usually varsity athletics that are sponsored and paid for," Latva said.

Nosovich's message to the University and athletic department emphasizes the hockey program doesn't have to aim for NCAA D1 status right away.

"It does not have to be the gold star NCAA D1. We can start very small, very localized, and just get kids in jerseys. I think there's at least 24 men and women that want to wear green and gold, I don't doubt it," Nosovich said.

For more information about classes, clubs and intramurals, Latva said students and other interested WSU community members can visit the fitness center's website.



Photo of the Mort Harris Recreation and Fitness Center in 2020. Photo by Irving Mejia-Hilario.

"It was really a collaborative thing with her and us, which was really good. She really took a lot of our inputs and just made us feel comfortable. So I think that the switch was pretty much as smooth as it could be once we found her," Lubiarez said.

Last year the team switched from varsity to club status. Despite the decision, Lubiarez said they stayed united and continued to show their spirited energy.

"There hasn't been any functional differences, it's all just been the same practices. We still cheer at the games. We still are going to nationals and competing in divisions with other teams and everything," Lubiarez said. "The one difference is we practice in the Mort Harris facility now rather than in the Matthaei Center."

"We did have to kind of stick together through the change going from becoming a club sport, just because a lot of us didn't know what that would mean at the time. We didn't know if anything was going to change.

Women's basketball ends season in first round of GLIAC tournament, two student-athletes receive all-GLIAC honors

By Akeel Ahmed

The women's basketball team concluded their season March 6 with a loss to the Northern Michigan Wildcats in round one of the GLIAC tournament with a final score of 51-48. The Warriors were tied with Northern Michigan at the end of the first half, then were outscored 28-25 in the second.

The Warriors lost four of their last five games heading into the GLIAC tournament, with one of those being an 80-74 loss to the Wildcats.

"There were games where we didn't really come ready to play. We should have beat those teams," sophomore Gabi Lutchka said.

Junior Shea Tripp led the Warriors in the tournament with 20 points, eight rebounds and three steals. Lutchka tied Tripp with eight rebounds and three steals. She also scored 16 points against the Wildcats.

Tripp played well in her two previous matchups against the Wildcats, earning career-highs with four three-pointers, 13 rebounds, eight assists and 26 total points.

Tripp earned first-team all-GLIAC and Lutchka received second-team all-GLIAC for the season they had with the Warriors.

"It was really cool to see my name on there, especially transferring last year and being out all preseason," Lutchka said. "Also to have Shae on the first team was super cool. None of that happens without everyone else on our team."

Tripp scored the most points per game this season, averaging just over 13 points. She also averaged the most rebounds per game with just under seven. Behind Tripp in points and rebounds per game is Lutchka, who averaged 12 points and over four and a half rebounds.

Lutchka transferred from Northwood University last year in January, played in 13 games for the Warriors, and finished the season with zero points. She finished the 2023-24 season with 314 points and played in all but two games.

"Sitting on the bench, not playing much, and having to be in that learning role, it's hard. You learn so much in that position too so I was thankful for the whole experience," Lutchka said. "The upperclassmen have also been in that position."

Redshirt senior Becca Fugate has played her entire college basketball career at WSU, setting a school record for games played with 131, and is second in games started with 95. She only started one game in her freshman year.

"Becca is a tireless worker," Coach Carrie Lohr said. "(She) just really wants to win. I don't know anybody as tough as her. She's endured a lot; from stitches to getting teeth knocked out, you name it."

The Warrior's only other redshirt senior, Kate McArthur, started every game this season and led the Warriors in assists with just under four.

"It's hard to believe that it's time for them to go," Lohr said. "Kate was very helpful in filling our point guard void. She stepped in and played that role for us and I give her a lot of credit. We saw a lot of great things come out of her from that spot."

Lohr said both seniors left an impact on the team. "Their value on and off the court is going to be missed," Lohr said.

Khalil Ben Ajmia wins NCAA championship, men finish 14th, women finish 12th

By Akeel Ahmed

Wayne State sent a total of 11 swimmers and five divers to the NCAA championship that took place from March 12 to March 16.

"To me, this is the fastest nationals that I've seen and we're going to get faster because of it," Coach Sean Peters said.

WSU's men finished 14th as a team, scoring 107 points, while the women scored 137 points for 12th place.

Freshman and GLIAC swimmer of the year Khalil Ben Ajmia won the 1650 free with a time of 14:57.68. Ben Ajmia is WSU's first men's swim and dive national champion since Sasha Palazzo in 2019 and the first to ever place first in the 1650 for the Warriors.

Four-time All-American Ben Ajmia also placed second in the 1000 free and third in the 500 free.

Ben Ajmia was born in Tunis, Tunisia where he said he would only swim competitively a few times a year.

"The dual meet, having a meet every weekend, having invitational meets, I am not used to that but I am happy I got through it," Ben Ajmia said.

He said having a team around him helped him with the transition.

"They shaped me into a better person. They influence you and how you act," Ben Ajmia said. "It makes me feel loved. It gives me a sense of belonging. I belong to this family."

"Khalil is a really good all-around person. He works hard in the pool, he works hard out of the pool, he's a heck of a student," Peters said. "He

has a drive about him and that drive takes him pretty far. I know he sets high goals for himself."

Other swimmers included graduate students Jordan Fox and Trevor Jones, both finishing with All-American honors. Fox was only 1.05 seconds from breaking the school record in the 500 free that she set in her previous NCAA championship.

"Each year I have improved a little more. It's been really exciting being able to swim with a really fast group of girls," Fox said. "It has been great just developing and even seeing everyone else get faster through the years as well."

"I always put pressure on myself to do well. I find that if I put that pressure on me I don't do as well, so I have kind of had to flip that mindset. "This is my last year, let's have a bit of fun and see what you can do," Fox said. "It's just a great opportunity to be here in the first place. I'm from Australia. I am going home after this, so this is like the final for me. I think (I'm) just enjoying it with the team, enjoying my last few moments here, but also enjoying my last few swims I'll ever do here in America."

Senior diver Mikaela Senkus placed second on the one-meter board (451.20) and three-meter board (498.95). Senkus was also runner-up in last year's NCAA championship from the one-meter board (470.95) and three-meter board (479.70). Senkus has received All-American honors each year she has competed in the NCAA championship.

THE SOUTH END

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Photos by Ciaran Martin



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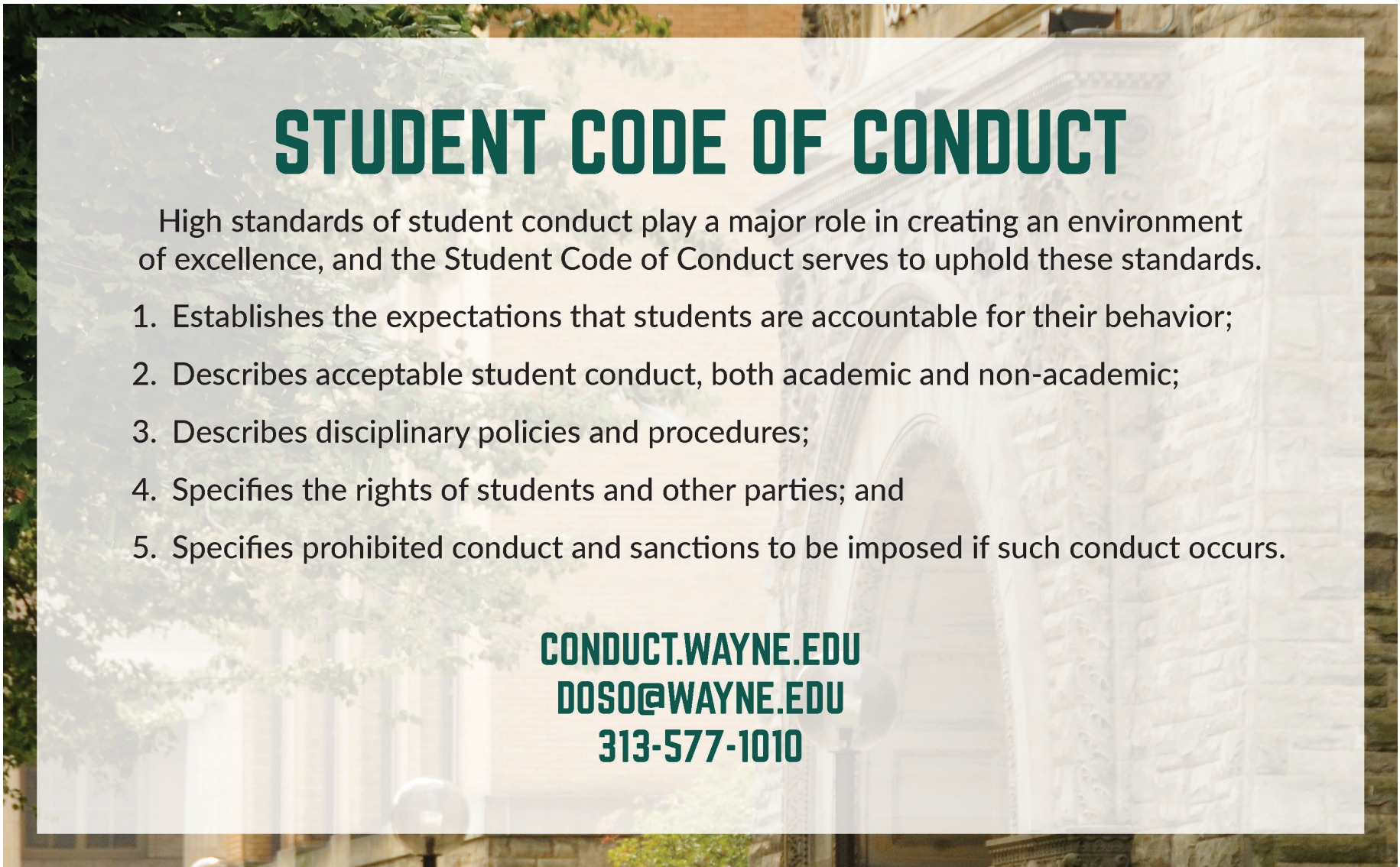


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The W Food Pantry & Thrift Shop provides currently enrolled Wayne State Warriors in need of food assistance with supplemental food and additional resources gently used garments to enhance student success.

Food Pantry	Thrift Shop	Other resources
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Feminine hygiene items available any time	Household items available	Warrior Meal Share Program
Essential baby items		

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