

THE SOUTHEND



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
**BACK TO
SCHOOL
EDITION
2022-23**

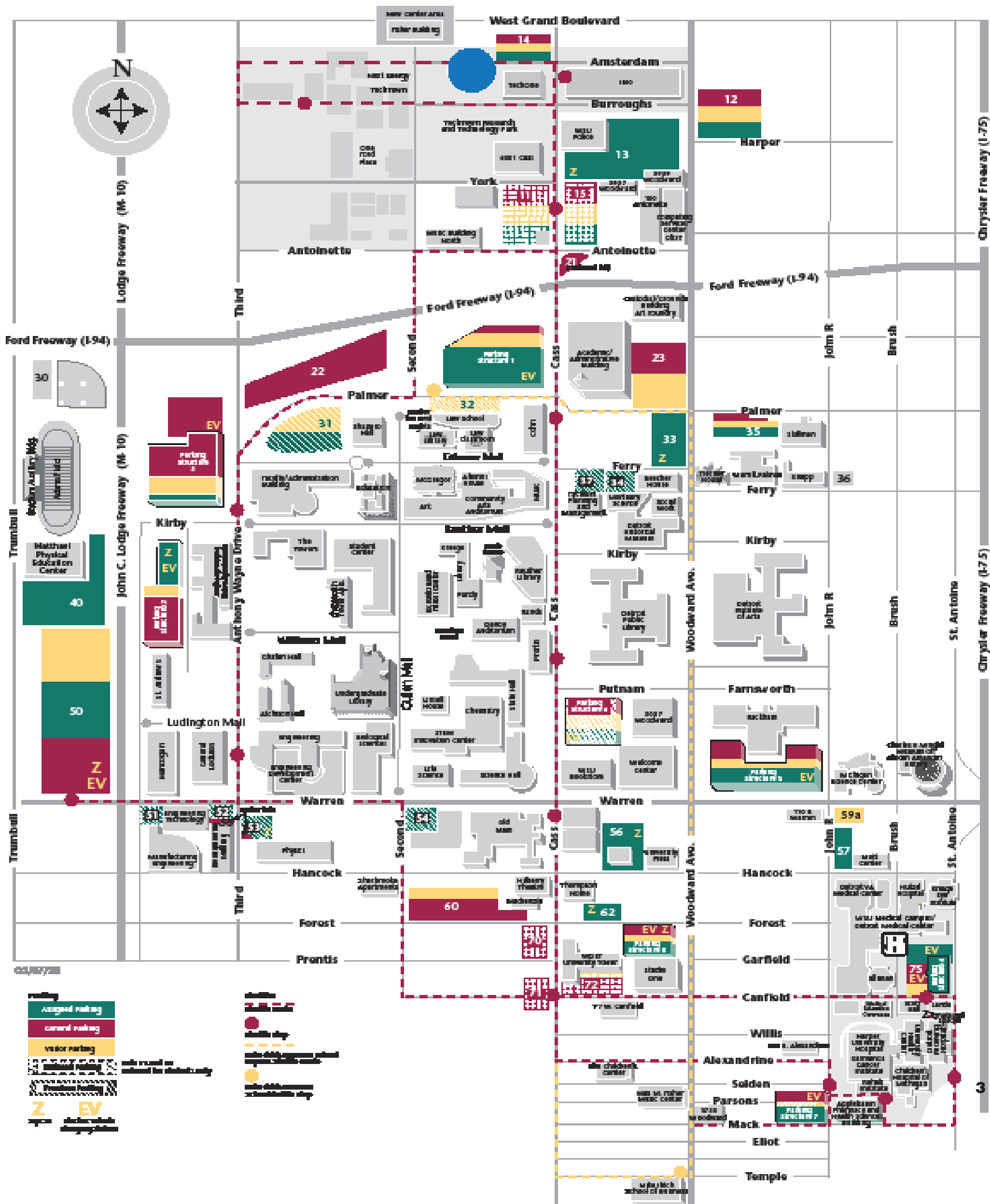


TABLE OF CONTENTS

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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 500 words. All submissions are subject to editing and may 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 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. The Student Newspaper Publication Board, established by the Wayne State University Board of Governors, acts as the publisher of The South End. The board establishes and ensures compliance with publication, editorial and news reporting guidelines. Business operations are handled through the Dean of Students Office. All complaints, comments and suggestions concerning the student newspaper should be directed to thesouthend.wsu@gmail.com.

pg 4- Letter from the Editor and Chief and Managing Editor

pg 5- Letter from President Wilson

NEWS

pg 6- New Deans, High Turnover Rates

pg 7 & 8- Student Senate Violates Open Meeting Bylaws

pg 10 & 11- Ukrainian Faculty at Wayne

pg 13- Warrior 360

pg 14 & 15- WSUs Response to War on Ukraine

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

pg 16-WSU Music Grad Recognized with Grant

pg 18- SOM Mural Highlights Black Medical Excellence

pg 19 & 20- New Hillberry Theatre

pg 22- Detroit Jazz Festival Returns to Live Music

SPORTS

pg 23- WSU Basketball Teams Upcoming Season

pg 25 & 26- NFL Wide Reciever Returns to WSU

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

Dear Warriors,

Returning to campus for the 2022-23 year, it's expected for anxiousness to arise. We've lived through two years of a pandemic that has shifted our society forever. As we slowly begin to remember what it means to live a "normal" life, The South End is excited to welcome you back to Wayne State's campus this fall.

After a year of mostly remote learning followed by a combination of synchronous and hybrid courses, WSU is preparing to be mostly in-person this fall. That means we get to remember what it's like to sit next to our peers in class, introduce ourselves to our professors and make new friends while roaming the streets of Midtown.

While we're excited, we equally understand how traumatic the past three years have been. We've all lived through the death of George Floyd, the evolution of the Black Lives Matter movement and a violent attack at the Capitol.

WSU students spent the last two years joining protests in Midtown, making their voices heard. On campus, rallies and vigils were held in support of the victims who lost their lives at the shootings in Oxford, Michigan and Uvalde, Texas.

COVID-19 took the lives of nearly 15 million people around the globe. Russia invaded neighboring Ukraine, killing thousands. WSU students stood up.

The 2021-22 Student Senate made a publicized statement in support of Palestine during an Israeli invasion, despite pushback from the university. And later, students spoke out when the clock tower on Old Main didn't light up blue and gold in support of Ukraine.

This print edition we are proud to present you with a collection of stories of WSU community members who stepped outside of their bubbles and spoke out in support of the world around them.

Thank you for reading and welcome back to campus,

Amelia Benavides-Colòn and Ashley Harris

Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor



LETTER FROM PRESIDENT WILSON

Dear Students,

The start of the fall semester is always an exciting time on our Midtown campus, and this year there are many reasons to be particularly enthusiastic. First and foremost, I am pleased we will be seeing more of each other with the return of more in-person classes and on-campus activities.

While your studies are paramount, engaging on campus is a critical part of your college experience and education. I strongly recommend that you get involved and connect with others, as this is the key to Wayne State's unique campus culture. We have many options including joining one of more than 500 student organizations on campus, where there is truly something for everyone.

Another popular activity is attending athletic events and cheering on your fellow Warriors. Visit Wayne State's Fieldhouse, where our men's and women's basketball teams play. This sparkling new arena opened just last year and is also home to the Motor City Cruise, the Detroit Pistons' G League team.

Our campus is always growing and evolving, and this year we are working on several projects. Almost all of you will eventually have a class in State Hall, our largest classroom building, and work is underway on a \$70 million renovation. Set to reopen in fall 2023, State Hall will offer state-of-the-art classrooms, new furniture and comfortable spaces to study and meet with faculty.

The Hilberry Gateway project is nearing completion and will host its first production, *Marcus*; or *The Secret of Sweet*, in February 2023. Work will then turn to transforming the old Hilberry Theatre into the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center. Our student actors, dancers and musicians, as well as those behind the scenes, are outstanding, and I encourage you to take in some performances.

Finally, the state legislature and governor have approved \$100 million for a new Wayne State medical building in partnership with the Karmanos Cancer Institute. While in the early planning stages, the aim of this project is to enhance medical education and community health and to develop innovative research laboratories. Given the scope of the project, I am confident it will also have a transformational impact on the state's workforce and talent development pipeline – particularly in healthcare; contribute to the vitality of Midtown and the city's positive economic development; and close health equity gaps through the deepening of our partnership with Karmanos.

I think we can all point with pride to these projects, but ultimately it is you, our students, and your success, that remain our top priority and the core of our mission.

I hope you have a remarkable year.

M. Roy Wilson
President
Wayne State University

HIGH DEAN TURNOVER WORRIES STUDENTS

By: Katherine Stozick and Michal Tomasz

Wayne State will be welcoming four new deans this fall and students are concerned about the sudden turnover.

New deans will be joining the Mike Ilitch School of Business, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts and College of Engineering while the School of Medicine has hired its new dean from within.

Board Chair and member of BOG's Personnel Committee Mark Gaffney said the deans who stepped down were getting ready to retire, prompting the transition period.

"We had, in our group of deans, employed a number of individuals who were getting close to their retirement age — for example, business and engineering...(and) the medical school," he said.

In a May 1 letter to The South End, medical student Candance Acruff said she noticed an "alarming" turnover of faculty, staff and vice deans within SOM specifically.

"The climate of the School of Medicine has caused us to be hypersensitive to who is placed in leadership (positions)," she said.

In 2020 former SOM dean Jack Sobel announced his retirement after five years as dean. After a year-long national search, Sobel was replaced by former dean Mark Schweitzer who served until the winter 2022 semester.

According to Deadline Detroit, Schweitzer was sharply criticized by his staff for his leadership, in an anonymous internal survey 75 percent of participants wanted Schweitzer removed.

Appointed from within, Dr. Weal Sakr will serve as the new SOM dean and the community has responded well, Gaffney said.

"There was some amount of discontent with the school under the previous dean," he said. "It is my understanding that the administration of the medical school, and the professors themselves, overwhelmingly are very happy with Dean Sakr."

Virginia Kleist will succeed Robert Forsythe as the dean of the Mike Ilitch School of Business; Forsythe had served as dean since 2014.

Kleist said she is excited to begin her tenure at WSU and said she has no concerns about the number of new deans hired this year.

"Oh, I'm not in the least bit worried about it. Hats off to Dean Forsyth," Kleist said. "I also look at the team of deans, the provost, and the president and honestly that is another reason why I came."

Kleist said she believes dean turnover is common within universities and that many high education professionals were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"COVID has had an interesting impact on deanships," she said, "and I think people were held in place that would have normally moved on who were seeking other opportunities and no one was really able to interview or change positions during the COVID period."

Hasan Elahi, the new dean for the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts, said that WSU is not unique in its high dean turnover.

Elahi said that with the new deans coming in, it marks a transformational time for the university.

"There is a level of change that is taking place at the university that you can see how different things are," Elahi said. "And I don't think that should be a point of nervousness, I think that should be a point of excitement."

With new leadership comes new ideas, something that is important to society right now, Elahi said.

"I think what it really comes down to is having so many new ideas really help this type of a point in time, and the point of history that we are at with the university and also with the city," she said.

Elahi filled a role left behind by former CFP-CA dean Matthew Seeger who served as dean for 11 years.

Former College of Engineering Dean Farshad Fotouhi also served as dean for 11 years and was replaced by nationally-acclaimed civil engineer Ali Abolmaali in mid-August.

Elahi said it's an exciting time to be joining the WSU community.

"This is a very unknown space for many of us, but that's what makes it exciting having all these new people in here. Because in many ways, our university is not the same university we were three years ago, our city is not the same city we were three years ago, and certainly not our society,"

Elahi said.

TSE ANALYSIS: 2021-22 STUDENT SENATE VIOLATED OPEN MEETING BYLAWS

By: Jenna Prestininzi and Amelia Benavides-Colòn

The South End faced issues reporting on in-person and virtual meetings of the 2021-22 Wayne State Student Senate throughout its term.

An analysis by TSE found that there were consistent failures to publicize Senate meetings on all Senate digital platforms, including Senate's website and official social media pages.

As a student government body, Senate is responsible for providing campus community members and the public an opportunity to attend all general body meetings, according to its bylaws.

These issues hindered TSE's ability to effectively report on Senate meetings in a timely manner throughout the term and the public's access to Senate operations.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a variety of challenges for journalists reporting on government bodies, and the relationship between TSE and Senate was no exception. Throughout the 2021-22 term, Senate held 65% of meetings virtually, which is where TSE reporters faced the greatest challenges.

TSE reporters and editors found that virtual meetings allowed for decreased transparency and accountability from Senate and had to work harder to hold Senate accountable to its standards. Unlike in-person meetings, which are always open to the public, virtual meetings created the possibility of members of the press and the public being denied access.

Senate decided at the beginning of its 2021-22 term to livestream virtual meetings on Senate's Facebook page so that members of the public could view them.

This is according to Senate Bylines Article VI, Section 2 D, which stated "To the greatest extent possible, all Student Senate General Body Meetings shall be livestreamed for all students to view and participate in virtually."

However, during its term, Senate failed to livestream 53% of its virtual meetings.

In accordance with TSE policy, reporters were expected to attend the meeting and submit an article to be published by the following day. However, delays in Senate leadership uploading virtual meetings to its Facebook page led to delays in the publications of articles on said meetings. This further disadvantaged TSE readers, who were unable to receive timely news reports on the state of Senate.

Additionally, Senate leadership emailed a TSE editor the Dec. 2, 2021 meeting recording but did not livestream the meeting or upload the recording to Senate's

Facebook page. This meant that while TSE was able to access and report on the updates from the meeting, the public was unable to access the content of the meeting.

Former Senate President Sailor Mayes did not respond to comment for this article.

TSE values transparency and the WSU campus community's right to know about the affairs of its Senate. Thus, editors were disturbed that Senate chose not to make these meetings publicly available and selectively provided them to TSE.

Senate also was inconsistent in posting meeting notices and agendas to both Senate's Facebook and Instagram accounts. 30% of meeting notices and 65% of meeting agendas were not posted to both Facebook and Instagram. 13% of meeting notices were posted to Senate's Instagram but not to Senate's Facebook.

This is a violation of Senate Bylaws Article VI, Section 1A, which stated, "The Director of Public Relations must post notice of each regular, special, and Executive Board meeting on the Senate official website and official social media. Notice must include the exact location, date, and time of the meeting and a statement that all students are welcome to attend."

Harrison Cole Departure

During this time, Senate also removed one of its leaders, former government affairs director Harrison Cole. The removal was caused by attendance issues related to Senate's hybrid meeting format during the pandemic and Cole said they were removed unfairly.

Cole said they are disappointed with how Senate dismissed them.

"I thought it was really inappropriate to basically take hearsay and use that to remove me, especially this being a unilateral decision to my knowledge," Cole said. "One person went against what was democratically voted upon by multiple people and I just thought that was very undemocratic."

Cole said the basis for their removal was a false rumor spread amongst senators that they lied about being in contact with COVID-19.

Former Senate President Sailor Mayes declined to comment, citing privacy concerns.

Cole said they requested to join via Zoom into the Nov. 4, 2021 in-person meeting because they were exposed to COVID-19. Their request was approved by the executive board, per Senate bylaws, but the Zoom link did not work, they said.

"The 4th (Nov. 4) I was approved, but for whatever reason they couldn't get the Zoom working that night so I was just told that that would be excused and I didn't have to attend," they said. "Then on the 11th (Nov. 11) they got the Zoom working so I was there."

Cole said they were at a Senate function on Nov. 17, 2021, when Mayes told them Senate would discuss their attendance.

"That's what I thought was going to happen until later that night I was just told that I was removed by the Secretary (Nasrin Ne-sha)," Cole said.

Per Senate's attendance bylaws, Cole was immediately removed from Senate and was told they could appeal at the Dec. 2, 2021 meeting.

A member of the Senate e-board, who has chosen to remain anonymous, said it was brought to the board's attention that Cole lied about their COVID-19 contact that led to their absences.

"In this situation, it came to our attention that Harrison was being untruthful about the situation in which their absences have occurred," they said. "Despite that claim, Harrison remained in attendance for in-person university events."

The anonymous senator said Cole was seen at a basketball game on campus on Nov. 5, 2021, when they said they were exposed to COVID-19, which is against the Student Code of Conduct.

Cole said they received a negative COVID-19 test the morning of the basketball game and decided to attend based on that.

The anonymous senator said it also came to light that Cole had not held a meeting for the Government Affairs Project Group in two months, which Cole said is not true.

"I scheduled meetings every other week as I was instructed to," Cole said. "The thing about these meetings is that they are not designed to be lengthy and each meeting we had was often 15 minutes or less."

At a Dec. 2, 2021 Senate meeting, Cole attempted to appeal their removal. Cole said the e-board spoke for about 45 minutes before denying the appeal.

The official vote on Cole's reinstatement is unknown as these meetings are held privately, the anonymous Senator said.

Inconsistency with following bylaws has continued into this summer with the new 2022-23 Senate term.

Senate began meetings for the new term on May 5. From then until July 21, Senate did not post meeting agendas or notices to Senate's Facebook and Instagram pages for any meetings, once again violating Senate bylaws. The meetings were all held in person and a schedule was posted on Senate's website.

Public Relations Director Tony DiMeglio said Senate was unable to publicize the meetings on its social media due to complications of being new to his role.

"It was transition, password issues and just a large amount of things that needed to be done, including consistency in PR (public relations) training that had to be approved by the university that was just a lot of work," DiMeglio said.

Senate President Yousra Zouani said Senate is working to correct this issue moving forward.

"Everything is planned to be released earlier in terms of our agenda, at least the day of the meeting and then we would have the agenda posted for everybody to see," Zouani said.

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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.

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Welcome Back Warriors!



UKRAINIAN FACULTY MEMBERS STRUGGLE AS WAR WITH RUSSIA PERSISTS

By: Katherine Stozicki

Wayne State Professor of Social Work Viktor Burlaka was born near Odessa, Ukraine, which Burlaka said is home to hundreds of beautiful languages and cultures.

By the time Russia launched its historic invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, Burlaka said he had already told his family they needed to find safety.

“Everyone, including me were [sic] in complete disbelief about what was unfolding. As I watched news, seeing Russian bombs explode near my daughter’s home, seeing a Russian tank driving over a civilian car right outside my house in Kyiv, the numb tears were slipping down my face,” Burlaka said.

Burlaka said his mother, brother and nieces were able to flee in March but the rest of his family remained in a village near Odessa.

“I felt paralyzed, disoriented, (and) had trouble sleeping,” he said.

After receiving his Master’s degree from Kyiv State University of Linguistics in Kyiv, Ukraine, Burlaka said was ready to pursue dreams beyond what Ukraine could offer him.

“I wanted to develop my research skills but PhD programs in social work weren’t available in Ukraine at that time,” he said. “So, I went to the University of Michigan of Ann Arbor and became the first Ukrainian who received PhD in Social Work and Psychology.”

Political Science professor Alisa Moldavanova said her entire extended family is in the war-torn country.

“I have been calling my mom every-day just to check on things,” Moldavanova said. “(A) part of my morning routine (is) I usually wake up...and before calling her, because it’s an eight hour time difference, I check what the situation in the region is... and then I call.”

Burlaka said how often he hears from his family is dependent on their sense of security.

“I keep contact with everyone. Some have left Ukraine, and some then returned back to Ukraine. Others are planning to leave. In many cases it depends on a sense of personal safety and how close the war is to people’s homes,” Burlaka said. “And some people are so strongly connected to their homes that they say they would rather die than leave.”

While most of her family is safe, Moldavanova said she recently lost contact with her 80-year-old aunt.

“A couple of weeks ago, we lost connection with my step aunt there because Russian occupiers have turned off internet and Ukrainian cell phone providers,” she said. “So, I don’t know what’s going on with her if she’s okay or not.”

THE LONG HISTORY OF UKRAINE- RUSSIA TENSION

Often, Burlaka said, people forget that the Russians started the war against Ukraine in 2014 when Russia seized Crimea, and only recently did tensions escalate.

“The tensions and the risk of further escalation have been in the air for quite a while since that time, but people got used to it and most believed that Russians would not attack Ukraine,” Burlaka said.

History professor Aaron Retish specializes in soviet history and said when Russia attacked, Ukraine pushed back harder than expected.

“Russia seems to have believed that it was going to do a quick decapitation of the leadership when it attacked Ukraine in February, and that failed,” he said. “And then after that, it seemed that Ukrainian forces were kind of pushing back Russia, which was kind of portrayed in a lot of Western news.”

Russia never stopped pushing into Ukraine — as of July, Russia has taken control of Mariupol, Donetsk and Luhansk along Ukraine’s eastern border.

On June 28, Russia took its first city on the western-half of the country, Kherson.

“Now, it seems that Russia is gaining more momentum in the south and in the east and that Ukraine is suffering from a shortage of armaments as western supplies haven’t reached Ukraine yet,” Retish said. “But I think it’s much more complicated. It’s not going to be a war that ends soon.”

Retish suggested that a recreation of the Soviet Union is not probable and said that was likely not Putin’s goal in invading Ukraine.

“That’s really important. Putin is not trying to create new republics,” Retish said. “If he did that, then he would try to get all of the former soviet republics under his umbrella.”

Retish said Putin’s actions echo those made during Imperial Russia, which lasted from 1712 to 1917, during which Russia laid claim to all Russian or Russian-speaking peoples.

“I think we won’t know the full answer (of why the war began) for a long time, but we can look at the idea that Putin has always tried to destabilize Ukraine and that this is another push to destabilizing Ukraine,” Retish said.

Retish said that Putin’s reasoning for the recent invasion of Ukraine stems from economic struggles and with a larger imperialistic conquest in mind.

“It looks like this is going to go on for a long time...the Russian military isn’t known to be efficient, it’s known to be effective,” Retish said. “At first it tried to be efficient, and now it’s just slowly grinding, taking just a mile, half a mile. So it’s just going to be a slow grind.”

LOOKING AHEAD

While the war continues to ravage on, Burlaka said he is heartbroken. Too many have become victims of the war and he is hurt by what Russia has done.

The United Nations have confirmed more than 4,000 deaths so far, the majority being civilians.

“Too many people have died and became wounded. Ukraine is such a beautiful country with its ancient history and very unique culture,” Burlaka said. “Seeing how Russian troops destroy everything, hearing Russian politicians say that Ukrainians have no right to be Ukrainians and must be converted to Russians is simply heartbreaking.”

Moldavanova said the only thing she can do for now is stay in communication with her family.

“Most of my family is in Odessa, so there’s no active fighting in Odessa on the ground, but there is an occasional...bomb...and explosions and things like that. So, people are not fully safe, but they’re, for now,” she said. “Safer than some other parts of Ukraine.”

Burlaka said that Ukrainians are banding together to protect their home, which is all they can do.

“Many Ukrainians live in fear, and some are losing hope that this pointless suffering would ever

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WARRIOR 360 PROGRAM TO REPLACE APEX AND WARRIOR VIP

By: Natalie Davies

The Warrior 360 program will replace Warrior Vision and Impact and Academic Pathways to Excellence programs amid controversy among students involved in the programs.

The Warrior VIP and APEX programs are part of student success initiatives designed to support students in their journey through university and APEX specifically as an alternative admission to the university.

Students first found out about the switch of programs through an email sent from the President M. Roy Wilson in March.

Student Success and University Council for Engagement president and Warrior VIP participant Zaria Coleman, and Black Student Union president Michael Joseph admitted to the university through APEX, started a petition that night in an effort to quickly respond and raise awareness before it got blown under spring break.

Talk of the switch predates the pandemic, and once Ahmad Ez-zeddine took over as vice president of Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement, a newer model started launching, Darryl Gardner, senior director for Academic Student Affairs, said.

Both Joseph said he was frustrated in the lack of communication with students in deciding to make the shift.

“Nobody ever talks to the students before they make these decisions,” Joseph said. “When you take all the central control out of a program essentially and hand it to other individuals who —for my opinion, were not a part of the building foundation of the program or who have been there enough — that’s not right.”

Gardner said a unified program was necessary for the university to be able to use resources more efficiently and shift their philosophies around seeking success.

“We needed to develop a program or a system that could serve more students, and the vision has recently expanded to service potentially an entire freshman class and beyond,” Gardner said. “The current organization of those previous programs did not allow for that, and scaling those models would have been challenging.”

The end goal of Warrior 360 is for it to expand as a “recruitment to graduation model,” Gardner said. Coleman said she hopes Warrior 360 does what the university plans for it to do.

“Wayne State has this culture of exclusivity where you have to have certain requirements to get certain resources from the university, but I think admission to Wayne State is the way students should get these resources, not through a program,” Coleman said.

Latonia Garrett, senior director for Academic Student Affairs, said the Office of the Provost has looked at programs by other universities as a model for a more modern approach.

In order to better gauge student opinion, Coleman said the new program has previously held bi-weekly “circle talk” meetings to discuss students’ concerns.

Garret acknowledged the students’ feelings and made a commitment to enforce better communication with students moving forward, she said.

Joesph said he is concerned about the replacement of the program that accepted and supported students like him who are about to graduate but didn’t have a traditional admissions path of getting there.

“What was really helpful about APEX to me is that one, as a Black individual, there was a lot of Black staff in there and a lot of people that just really cared about you, cared where you went, and cared how you succeeded; it’s really (has) (?) a sense of family,” he said.

He said he is especially concerned with ending the summer bridge program that provides room and board, tuition, and course materials for students selected to participate in the summer session, according to the APEX website.

The main focus of Warrior 360 at the moment is working on a summer bridge called momentum, but is only one week where students will be able to “experience campus life,” Coleman said, compared to the 8 week summer bridge students took classes through APEX.

Coleman started and is now president of SSAUCE which will give student leaders a space to speak up about issues to administration.

Gardner and Garrett are both excited about the opportunity to give students support through Warrior 360.

“I hope that 360 can be a way to start some conversation and keep students’ success in the conversation just as much as concerts and football games and all the other great elements of college are included,” Garrett said. “We want to be in the center of that too. It’s an exciting time and I’m looking forward to seeing all the people that we can help to make happy during their time at Wayne State.”

‘PALESTINE DIDNT GET NEARLY AS MUCH SUPPORT’: COMMUNITY MEMBERS QUESTION WSU’S RESPONSE TO THE WAR ON UKRAINE

By: Kate Vaughn

Some students and faculty are speaking out against what they say are conflicting decisions by Wayne State in its public stance on the war in Ukraine versus the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In response to Russia’s Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, President M. Roy Wilson sent a campus-wide email in support of Ukraine. Last year, when Student Senate released a statement in support of Palestinians, Wilson immediately denounced it.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, WSU has held three peace vigils and multiple faculty-led discussions.

Seeing WSU’s lack of support for Palestine was disappointing, said Ayah Shkoukani, WSU alum and former vice president of Students for Justice in Palestine.

“The situations that are happening in Palestine and Ukraine are similar,” she said. “And just seeing that the Ukrainians have all of the support— which they should get all the support, of course— but seeing that Palestinians are not getting all of that same support at all kind of feels like they’re diminishing our struggles and our identities in general.”

In a June 3, 2021, email to the campus community, Wilson criticized Senate’s statement — which had been released the day before — on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He said the statement did not reflect the official view of the WSU administration, and he disagreed with the language used in it.

“We are a university community, and we support the right to free speech. While we support the right of our students to express views important to them, I regret their (Senate’s) use of some needlessly inflammatory terminology,” Wilson said. “We must treat each other with civility and respect. Some of their words did not do that.”

Four days after the invasion of Ukraine, Wilson sent an email to WSU’s student body in support of Ukraine.

“Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities — of which Wayne State University is a member — recently published this letter condemning the Russian invasion of the sovereign state of Ukraine, ordered by Vladimir Putin,” he said. “We stand in solidarity with this letter, the worldwide university community, and free people everywhere, especially the citizens of Ukraine.”

In the email, Wilson also invited the campus community to attend the first of three WSU peace vigils for Ukraine.

Alisa Moldavanova is an associate professor in political science at WSU. Moldavanova is Ukrainian and the key organizer of WSU’s three Ukraine vigils.

“The reason why we want to continue this type of event is because we want (the) Wayne State community to not just have a theoretical solidarity with Ukraine and others who have suffered in similar ways,” she said.

During the first vigil, Moldavanova called on WSU to display the colors of the Ukrainian flag on Old Main. She said the university decided against the public declaration.

“We also want Wayne State University as an institution to do their part in helping these crises,” she said.

Moldavanova said she feels like WSU is trying to stay a neutral party, “the university doesn’t want to look like it’s doing something more for Ukraine than it’s doing for other parts of the world...two wrongs don’t make it right.”

“And if we have to display solidarity with oppressed, with the marginalized, and those who are being attacked, then we need to display that type of solidarity, and if we need to do a vigil for Ukraine then we need to do a vigil for Afghanistan or a vigil for Syria,” she said.

WSU chose not to light up the tower on Old Main because the demand was complex, said Matt Lockwood, associate vice president of university communications, in a June 13 email to The South End.

“Lighting up of the Old Main clock tower has been done very rarely over the years and is not as simple as raising a flag,” he said. “We didn’t want to start a precedent of lighting up the clock tower for issues not directly related to the university.”

Lockwood said WSU contributed to the efforts in other ways.

“The university was very supportive of the three peace vigils held on campus. For example, we promoted them in our internal communications, sent out news releases, lined up media interviews and provided the microphone and staging,” he said.

Yasmin Shkoukani graduated from WSU in May and is SJP’s former finance chair. She said she was disappointed to see that Palestinian students didn’t get nearly as much support or sympathy from Wilson during last year’s events in Palestine.

She said she was upset by the overall contrasting responses to the conflicts in Ukraine and Palestine.

“It’s more of like, ‘Oh, this is a complicated issue. Both sides are wrong.’ Those type of things,” she said.

Israeli police raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on April 22, using rubber bullets and stun grenades. Ayah Shkoukani said this type of violence is often misconstrued by news outlets.

“Whenever you see a media outlet covering it— if they cover it— when they do cover it, it says like, ‘Palestinians and Israeli officials clash,’” she said. “It’s always a clash, but in reality it’s not a clash when one side has multi-billion dollar weapons and the other side has stones.”

According to Al Jazeera, 31 Palestinians were injured during the raid and one Israeli officer was hurt after being hit with a stone.

Ayah Shkoukani said she was a victim of a similar Israeli raid when visiting Palestine in 2015.

“It was night, we were praying, and the Israeli (Occupation) Forces came into the mosque, and they wanted all the Palestinians out, so they started... shooting us with the rubber bullets and throwing the stun grenades and tear gas at us while all we were doing was praying in the mosque,” she said. “I was 15 years old— no threat to anyone.”

Another point of contention was the rate at which the U.S. and many prominent companies utilized boycotts, divestments, and sanctions against Russia— something that has overwhelmingly been absent in Israel’s case.

Industry giants like Netflix, Starbucks, H&M, and Exxon— just to name a few— all took action against Russia within a month of its invasion of Ukraine.

Yasmin Shkoukani said seeing the world respond with swift economic pressure to Russia but not Israel is upsetting.

“(W)hen it had to do with Palestine, everyone was kind of like ‘eh, no,’ but then with Ukraine it’s like automatic ‘yes, let’s do whatever we can to help,’” she said.

On May 27, 2021, The United Nations’ Human Rights Council voted to form the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

The Commission released its report June 7, which detailed its findings, including Israel’s human rights violations and discriminatory practices.

“The Commission repeats with concern the stark warning by the Special Rapporteur that the persistent discrimination against Palestinians throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem, threats of forced displacement, forced displacement, demolitions, settlement expansion and settler violence and the blockade of Gaza have all contributed to and will continue to contribute to cycles of violence,” it said.

Yasmin Shkoukani said understanding the conflict is a key way to show support.

“(O)nce you have that education, spreading awareness and talking about it with people and just using your resources to advocate for Palestinians,” she said. “I feel like that’s the most important thing.”

Moldavanova said people must acknowledge the conflicts happening around the world.

“We’re living in a global world, and we cannot be denying that these things are happening, regardless of whether we have a way to resolve the situation or not,” she said. “We need to be aware of it, and we need to do as much as we can.”

Ayah Shkoukani said the world’s needs are overwhelming, but it’s important to remember how its people are affected.

“It is difficult. There are so many things going on and sometimes just thinking about it and looking at it, you’re like, ‘Well, who am I going to support? This is mentally draining,’” she said. “A lot of people feel that way, but unfortunately, the people who are oppressed can’t just turn off their phones and just look away and just rest their minds. This is their lives.”

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WAYNE STATE MUSIC GRAD RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL GRANT

By: Ciaran Martin

Wayne State School of Music graduate Martiza Garibay is the recipient of a national grant to further continue her career and produce her own Detroit opera.

On May 16, Garibay was announced as one of the recipients of the New Music USA's Creator Development Fund Grant, a program created to support artists in the creation of new ideas and collaborations to help reach their creative potential.

"We're proud to have been able to award many individuals this year as part of our 10th anniversary, and enable these music creators to take the lead in developing their ideas and projects during these challenging times," said New Music USA's Director of Grantmaking Programs, Scott Winship.

Garibay is a Detroit native who focused on local music during the pandemic. She taught virtual ensembles at the Detroit School of Arts and played in the band, Dominant Hand, a duo that creates experimental ambient sound using homemade electronic instruments called synthesizers.

Garibay said she was ecstatic to learn of the awarded funding from the program.

"I was thrilled honestly. Artists apply to tons of grants and awards and sometimes you get into a rhythm where you're getting more rejections than congratulations," she said. "I had been dreaming of this project since last fall when I applied, so it was just really thrilling to get that news."

Garibay is using the grant to help finance her newest project, an opera called "Cleansed" that features music composed by herself, her Dominant Hand partner Austin Richey, and a script written by Detroit poet Jessica Care Moore.

The subject of "Cleansed" is the Schvitz Health Club, a historic bathhouse in Detroit's North End. Maritza said she found inspiration in the space from her personal experiences there, detailing the therapeutic cycle of washing yourself off, steaming in the Banya, a Russian steam room, then plunging into cold pools and repeating the process several times.

"You leave the space and not only are you physically clean, but spiritually you feel like you're walking out with a little less of whatever the hell you brought in with you," she said.

Each act of the opera will represent the steps of schvitzing with music written to reflect that, Garibay said. Each score will be similar to her work in Dominant Hand.

"You'll hear similar sounds, but the application will be much different," Garibay said "We're spending a lot of time thinking about how our instruments will sound in that space, thinking about how voices will sound with the instruments in that space."

Homemade electronic instruments created by Garibay and Richey will be used to make the music match the vocals of four vocalists. Garibay said this involves becoming familiar with everyone's musical capabilities.

As a music student, Garibay studied the works of experimental musicians, Pauline Oliveros and Maria Chavez, whose philosophies involve focus on the sonic and auditory aspects of music. These concepts are influential to the creative process for "Cleansed," Garibay said.

Chavez, who is a role model to Garibay, said she is excited to see her grow not just as a music teacher but as an artist.

"She has put a lot of effort into providing instruments, ideas and opportunities to her students, tirelessly working to show these kids that there is a way through," Chavez said.

Garibay and her team plan to film "Cleansed" in the Schvitz bathhouse in late August and will spend the rest of the year on the editing and mixing of the piece. The release is planned for February 2023.



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Section 4.20 of the Student Code of Conduct notes the following behavioral expectations related to COVID-19 Compliance: Failure to comply with University instruction pertaining to the containment of coronavirus or of COVID-19, including, but not limited to:

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- b. Following the direction of the Campus Health Center regarding a positive screen;
- c. Wearing, at minimum, a cloth facial covering in campus classrooms and laboratories;
- d. Complying with signage regarding directional hallways, elevators, common spaces, and stairwells

SOM MURAL TELLS STORIES OF BLACK MEDICAL EXCELLENCE

By: Shawntay Lewis

Wayne State's Department of Art and Art History has partnered with the School of Medicine to create a vibrant mural illustrating historical Black medical leaders in Detroit.

Student artists and faculty from both departments helped to install the 375-foot-long mural titled "The Real Detroit" near Canfield and Saint Antoine Street, outside of the Gordon H. Scott Hall of Basic Medical Sciences, on June 13.

Fine arts alumni Cara Young and MFA candidate Ephemera Fae were leaders in the mural development process. The process began in January 2021 with a focus group for art integration in medicine, Fae said.

"They knew that they wanted to do a mural...so it started with a lot of meetings and ideas to have a class, but the class didn't start until the following year," Fae said.

With funding from the Michigan Humanities Council, the group for the art project was led by WSU art professors Grace Serra, Sheryl Oring, Margi Weir, and SOM pediatrics professor Dr. Beena Sood.

The mural's concept took a year to develop and tells the stories of Black medical excellence, despite the hardships they faced during the country's Jim Crow era, from 1920 to 1960.

"It's focused on the conceptual interpretation of the oral histories from the communities that were displaced by the medical school," Fae said.

Fae said for the mural interviews with relatives and friends of historical Black physicians were conducted by Serra to determine who would be integrated into the painting.

At the end of the mural, the students painted a woman surrounded by neurons and words promoting humanity from the Hippocratic Oath that flows throughout the piece.

Dr. Anita Moncrease, historian and activity committee chair in the SOM Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, said some of the faces on the mural are oftentimes overlooked.

Moncrease said she wishes more physicians could have been featured in the mural but was happy with how many the students were able to learn about.

"I think that had we had the opportunity, there would have been some more prominent people, as it related to the history of the Black physicians in the city of Detroit," Moncrease said. "But the people who are featured, their stories needed to be told."

The history of the people in the mural took some time to piece together since Moncrease was one of the last faculty members to be introduced to the mural concept, she said.

Donovan Roy, vice dean of diversity and inclusion at the School of Medicine, said the mural emphasizes the contributions of WSU graduates in the medical field.

"I think the most important component of this mural is that it takes a look at the history that African American physicians had in the city of Detroit, but better yet, those who graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine," Roy said. "This mural really shows the contribution that African American physicians have made in our community and also inspires another generation to let them know that there are role models that they can someday become."

The accuracy of the history behind the mural was something the Art Department and SOM fought for when WSU prematurely released articles with inaccurate information regarding the mural's history, Fae said.

Young said in order to achieve accuracy in a mural like this, an artist must tell the stories from that community's perspective.

"I'm looking forward to continuing projects like this because there's so much you can tell in a story," he said. "You always have to come back, if you truly want to make it accurate, and if you truly want to include, you just have to add those voices."



NEW HILBERRY THEATRE TO OPEN IN 2023

By: Theresa De Benedetti

As the new performance space at The Hilberry Gateway Theatre nears the end of construction, the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance prepares for a new era of performing arts at Wayne State.

The Hilberry, located along Cass Avenue, will serve as the new home for the department beginning in 2023, with the earliest performances planned in February.

The Hilberry will be one of three new performance spaces coming to WSU, in addition to the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center and outdoor performance space alongside the building, which will begin construction in 2023.

The new Hilberry Gateway Theatre, which began construction in 2019, will include a 550-seat Proscenium theatre, 250-seat black box theatre and a 6,500 square-foot lobby with a cafe.

WSU Professor John Wolf, the director of development for the Hilberry Gateway, said the university is investing in exciting new technology for the building.

"I believe that our students are going to be on national tours or working for major rock concerts or moving to work on Broadway because they will be better prepared certainly than any other students in the state," Wolf said. "Most students across the country won't have the kind of technology that we're going to have when we open."

The Hilberry Gateway's debut performance will be "Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet" by Tarell Alvin McCraney from Feb. 24 through March 5, 2023.

Following this performance will be several works such as the African Dance Company's "To Sangana," the Dance Workshop Showcase, "Cabaret," and the Annual Spring Dance Concert during the winter semester.

The Theatre and Dance Department currently performs in the original Hilberry Theatre, originally built in 1917. Wolf said following completion of the new Hilberry, the former building will undergo renovation to become the new Gretchen Valade Jazz Center.

Dressing rooms will be located in the 22,800 square foot production wing which will also host the actor warm-up room, greenroom, lighting and sound shop, scene shop, costume shop and properties shop.

The scene shop will include a metal shop, scene painting deck, and computer numerical control room for creating scenery and props. It will also have a costuming area which will include craft rooms, private fitting rooms, and spray paint booths.

Senior acting major Jacob Lipski is a chairperson for the Underground Theatre Company that performs in the basement of the Hilberry Theatre. He said the new production wing will be more convenient for producing shows.

"From an actor's perspective it is really cool because it has an actual scene shop where they create all the sets and costumes and everything," Lipski said.

Lipski said the new onsite facilities should help theatre students to learn different aspects of theatre.

"Sometimes with the distinction in streamlined courses, acting and design are kind of separate," he said. "This is a cool way to sort of bridge the gap in that way and introduce people to different areas and start more conversations as students."

OVER 15 PRODUCTIONS ARE PLANNED FOR THE 2022-23 SEASON

By Ashley Harris

Productions for this season include several works such as "Orlando," "Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet," and "Cabaret," which are scheduled to be performed in the new Hilberry Gateway Theatre, expected to open during winter 2023.

"There are a lot of really amazing things happening this season," Department Outreach Supervisor Alesyn McCall said.

McCall said the department will perform "Merry Wives of Windsor" in November and then continue the rest of the subscription season in the new Hilberry venue.

Mary Anderson, Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, said the department has been in a recovery phase this past year after experiencing the pandemic's impact.

"(Rebuilding) gave us a chance to reflect on what we have been doing, what has worked, what hasn't worked, and also our commitments to equity, diversity, social justice and...those are commitments that have been held and uplifted by the faculty for a long time," Anderson said.

Senior BFA acting major Camden Maccagnone is trying his hand at directing. Maccagnone is co-directing the play, "She Kills Monsters," in April 2023.

"('She Kills Monsters') is pretty much for the outcast, for the misfits and for anyone that doesn't feel like they have — they don't really belong to a social norm...and we want to make them feel like...no matter where or who you are, there is always a place for you," Maccagnone said. "There is always a group of people, albeit, you know, they might be viewed as odd...but it's still like you belong to these groups of people and we just wanna make them feel that they're not alone."

Each play in the 2022-2023 theatre and dance season is directed toward a different age group and background, McCall said.

Anderson said this upcoming season will provide students the opportunity to explore new forms of production.

“We also have really increased our commitment to have a lot of student produced works, because one of the things that we learned during the pandemic is that the students are these incredible artist, leaders, and the students themselves are visionaries for what kinds of stories need to be told and what kind of dances need to be created. They have visions that faculty and staff don’t have.”

With more students getting involved this season, students are given the opportunity to work on different elements of production.

McCall said one of her goals for the production is to provide a space for those who feel isolated.

“I don’t think that we’ve ever produced a show by an Asian playwright who wrote ‘She Kills Monsters,’ so (I’m) very excited about that,” McCall said. “Like a lot of feminist themes are coming up in this season too...”

Anderson said through the season she hopes to provide a dialogue between the public and the theatre department for the development of theatre at WSU.

“The goal is not to just be a place that makes stuff, and then people can kind of just come and show up and see it — how can we be in conversation together?” Anderson said. “How can we as a department learn from the audience, how can we as a department learn from community organizations and how can we keep becoming better at what we do through the cultivation of evaluation?”





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DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL RETURNS TO LIVE PERFORMANCES

By: Marina Johnson

The Detroit Jazz Festival is returning to in-person performances this Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2 to Sept. 5.

Located at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit, the four-day event is the largest free jazz festival in the world and one of the top ranked jazz festivals in the United States, said Christopher Collins, Detroit Jazz Festival president and artistic director.

The festival was founded in 1980 by Robert McCabe and is attended by over 325,000 people annually, said Collins.

In 2021, nearly 2.5 million viewers watched the festival through live-streaming services provided by the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation, said Collins.

This year's performances will include: The Soul Rebels, Nubya Garcia, Bill Frisell Trio and Dianne Reeves amongst others. These artists use various rhythm arrangements and a blend of different instruments to create unforgettable memories for the audience.

Jazz vocalist, Barbara Ware, will be performing at the upcoming festival for the first time in-person, since 2019. She said the hope is that audiences will love this year's line-up.

“I hope they enjoy my set and the music,” Ware said. “Usually, the people that come to the Detroit Jazz Festival are jazz lovers, so they expect to hear good music and I hope they won’t be disappointed.”

Vincent Chandler, Wayne State jazz studies professor and musician, said Detroit is known for its tight-knit jazz community.

“Just like Detroiters proudly talk about Motown and that whole legacy, that never goes away and that will always be something that Detroit is known for, the Detroit Jazz community is proud of the contributions of Detroiters who made a difference,” Chandler said.

Many Detroiters have a sense of pride for jazz music, as famous jazz musicians are either from Detroit or have a strong fan-base in the city; furthermore, the festival serves as a hub not only for the fans but for the local artists, said Chandler.

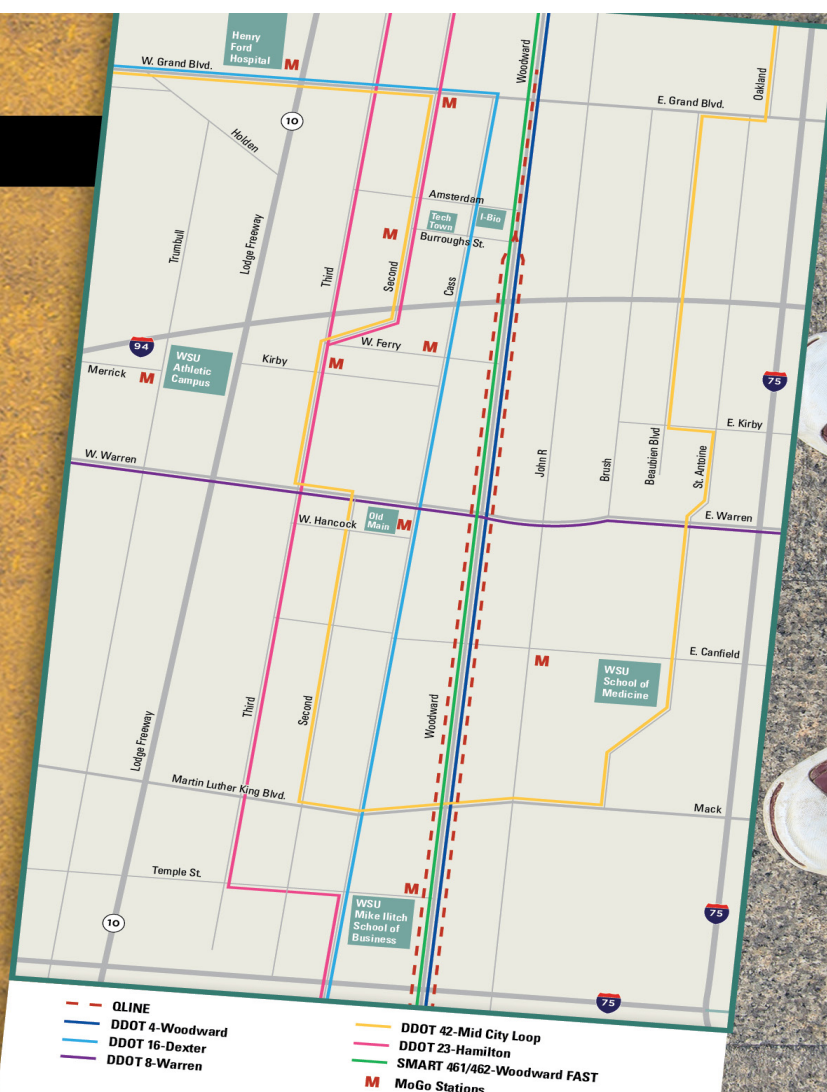
“The Detroit local musicians, they keep the jazz scene going here. They’re the ones that are playing in the local clubs, week in and week out,” Chandler said. “What happens with the Detroit Jazz Festival, it’s that one chance where they get to be on the big stage, where they get to be heard by thousands of people, and they get to exhibit what they’ve been working on and developing all throughout the year.” Collins said the interaction between attendees of the festival is the most memorable and creates an amazing experience for everyone.

“One of the most touching things I see is amongst the 325,000 odd people that come every year, you’ll see people from completely different places on the map sitting next to each other and something amazingly beautiful will happen musically on the stage, and they will slap each other on the back and give each other high-fives and buy each other a beer and they’re celebrating together,” Collins said. “It brings people closer through the music, and for art, for creative music, for jazz — to do that in our community, I would say that is probably the most profound effect that you can see and experience.”

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WSU BASKETBALL TEAM IS POSITIVE ABOUT UPCOMING SEASON

The Wayne State Warriors basketball team looks ahead to bounce back from their 5-18 record last season.

By: Victor Jackson

The COVID-19 pandemic proved to be a difficult roadblock to overcome as the entire team tested positive during the season causing over a week of quarantine.

Raynard Williams Jr., sophomore forward, said the team struggled to bounce back. “So much went on last season...(with) the whole team getting covid right when we were starting to figure things out. Those 10 days of no gym time really hit us hard, causing us to get out of the shape we were already in,” Williams Jr. said.

Williams Jr. said as the confidence of the team began to shake, so did their focus level.

“Some of the struggles the team and I went through last year was the team's shooting percentages dropped. This took a toll on our confidence as the season progressed,” he said. “I also feel that the focus wasn’t all the way there from us as a team.”

Off the court the team experienced issues with a mid-season coach change when their former coach David Greer of 20 years retired. In a release from WSU Athletics, Greer said he woke up and his passion for football was done and it was time to walk away.

The team started their spring training with their new head coach, Bryan Smothers. Smothers is a WSU Hall of Fame basketball player and became WSU’s 10th head coach in program history.

Smothers served as an assistant coach under several head coaches — David Greer at WSU, John Beilein at the University of Michigan and Greg Paulus at Niagara University.

In his first year with the program, Smothers said he wants to build and help make a positive transition into a new era.

“I’m really looking to build a solid foundation in general, anytime there’s change

or transitions you look at it and kind of decide on things you want to continue to do and things you want to adjust or change,” Smothers said.

The new foundation started with Smothers having individual meetings with each player after their spring training and Williams Jr. believed the meetings started a new fire within the team.

“After our four-week assessment Coach had individual meetings with all of us explaining the goals he had for us as well,” Williams Jr. said.

In addition to the new motivation, Williams Jr. said he looked forward to playing under Smothers and their new playing style.

“This season I am looking forward to playing under Coach Smothers (and)(?) learning more about his knowledge of the game to help me improve mines,” he said. “I am also excited to be playing under Coach's playing style as well.”

Accompanying Smothers on the coaching staff will be two new WSU assistant coaches, Will Vergollo and Raymoan McAfee Jr.

Prior to joining WSU basketball staff, McAfee Jr. was an assistant coach and player at Ferris State University and he was also an assistant coach under Ted Albert at Indiana Tech.

In Smothers’ first season with WSU, Williams Jr. said it would be a great season for him and he was beyond excited for the great things they will get to accomplish.

“I believe this will be a great first season as head coach for Coach Smothers. I've seen some of how he works and prepares, so in the season I can only imagine how great things will be. I am excited for the season and wouldn't want to do it with anyone else,” Williams Jr. said.

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DoorDash/Grubhub

Burgers All 2 / 2oz Fresh Ground 100%

Beef Patties - (ground fresh on site several time daily)	
Add extra patty w/cheese	\$1.75

Slider Burger

Grilled Onions, American Cheese, Dill Relish, Mustard, Ketchup	\$5.49
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All American Burger

American Cheese, Romaine Lettuce, Tomato, Raw Onion, Mayo, Pickle	\$5.49
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Chili Burger

American Cheese, Chili, Chopped Onion, Mustard	\$6.49
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Turkey Burger

Romaine Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Pickle, Mayo	\$5.49
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Jalapeño -Cheddar Burger

Jalapeño Peppers, Cheddar, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion Mustard	\$6.49
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Salisbury Burger

Our version for Mushroom, Swiss Burger Grilled Onions, Fresh Grilled Mushrooms, Grilled Green Peppers, Swiss Cheese, Thin layer of Mashed Potato on Buns, Gravy	\$6.49
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Big B Burger

Two all Beef Patties, Boom Boom Sauce, Lettuce Cheese Pickle Onion	\$7.49
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Ruben Burger

Corned Beef, Sauerkraut, Swiss, 1000 Island	\$7.49
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Southwest Burger

White American, Pico De Gallo, Guacamole, Lettuce	\$7.49
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Add On's

Cheese	\$1.00
Grilled Onion	\$1.00
Fresh Grilled Mushrooms	\$1.50
Bacon	\$1.00
Fried Egg	\$1.00
*Make any Burger & Combo w/Fries and House-made side add	\$3.99

Red Hots Coneys

(a staple in Highland park for over 100 years)

- Corey, Mustard Chili, Onion	\$2.99
- Loose Burger, Seasoned Ground Beef, Chili, Mustard, Onion	\$3.99
- Chili No Beans	\$5.99
- Chili w/Beans	\$4.99

Chicken Sandwich

- Grilled	
- Cajun Grilled	
- Fried	
- Fried Cajun	
All with Lettuce Tomato Pickle Mayo	\$8.99
*Make a Combo w/House-Cut Fries and House-made side	\$3.99
Choice of House made side of Pasta Salad, Potato Salad or tangy vegetable.	

Chicken Strips

- Fried	\$8.99
- Spicy Fried	\$3.99
*Make a Combo w/House-Cut Fries and House-made side of Pasta Salad, Potato Salad or tangy vegetable.	

Wings

Fresh never frozen	
- 6 pieces	\$8.99
- 10 pieces	\$14.99
*Make a Combo w/House-Cut Fries and House-made side	\$3.99

Flavors

BBQ	Honey BBQ
Buffalo	Mango Habanero
Garlic Parm	Cajun
Lemon pepper	(Served House Made Bayou Sauce)
Mediterranean	
(Fresh Lemon Juice, Salt, Pepper, Oregano	
Served w/House made Garlic Sauce)	
Extra Dressing/Dips	\$1.00

Salads

- Caesar Salad	\$8.99
- Lg Tossed Salad	\$7.99
- Greek Salad	\$9.99
- Mediterranean	\$7.99
Romaine Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Mint Salt, Pepper served w/House made dressing	
*Add Chicken - Grilled, Grilled Cajun, Fried, Fried Cajun	\$5.00



FORMER WOLVERINE, NFL WIDE RECEIVER DERRICK ALEXANDER RETURNS TO HOMETOWN AS WSU WIDE RECEIVERS COACH

By: Marina Johnson

Derrick Alexander has returned to Detroit to serve as the Wayne State wide receivers coach for the upcoming 2022 season.

Alexander grew up in the city of Detroit where he attended Catholic school from elementary school through high school. He attended Presentation for grade school and Benedictine for high school.

He also spoke of the influential role sports played in his childhood and at the collegiate level.

“I ran track at Michigan for a couple years and I played football,” Alexander said, “but all through my growing up I played baseball, I played basketball, I played football, and I ran track, so I was always busy playing a sport.”

Alexander originally wanted to pursue a college basketball career but was being recruited nation-wide for football.

“I got a few offers for basketball but football just kind of blew up. I was getting recruited by everyone in the country so I guess it kind of decided for me,” Alexander said.

Alexander played football at the University of Michigan from 1989-1993 where he spoke highly of the coaching experience he received.

“I was Bo Schembechler’s last class so having the chance to play for a legendary coach was huge for me...the coaching I received was tremendous,” Alexander said. “(I learned) how to run routes, how to get open, how to use your body, things like that. It was a great experience for me.”

After playing college football at the University of Michigan, Alexander continued his career in the National Football League.

Alexander played nine seasons in the NFL with the Cleveland Browns (1994-1995), Baltimore Ravens (1996-1997), Kansas City Chiefs (1998-2001), and the Minnesota Vikings (2002).

Alexander had a successful career in the NFL but spoke specifically about his 2000 season where he set a Kansas City Chiefs single-season record for receiving yards. During the same season, he was also voted MVP by his teammates.

The time requirements in the NFL were much more demanding compared to college where it was education focused, Alexander said.

“Being in college is a different vibe. You still have school to go to, you have to be eligible,” Alexander said.

Alexander left Detroit in 1994 to pursue his professional football career and spoke about the opportunities he’s had since his return such as coaching opportunities and reconnecting with family.

Paul Winters, head football coach at WSU, said Alexander’s fresh perspective will contribute greatly to the success of the football program in the upcoming season.

“I’ve already seen him work with our wide receivers. As an example, he’s making them more disciplined. He really understands the position and is doing a great job of teaching them how to perform and the fundamentals of the position,” Winters said.

WSU wide receiver Darrin King II said he hopes to grow as a player with the guidance of Alexander.

“I want to learn how to be the best receiver I can be, and I think he can definitely take me there,” King said. “Even in the short time I’ve had with him, the tips and tricks he’s given me and the tools he’s given me it really puts a smile on my face because I feel like I’m learning from a master and someone who really knows what they’re talking about.”

Alexander said his various levels of experience influence the expectations he has for his players in the upcoming season.

“The expectations are going to be high,” Alexander said. “I want to be the best wide receiver group in the conference and that leads to being the best wide receiver group in the country. I have those expectations and I have to make sure they understand what those standards will be as long as I’m here.”

Alexander said he hopes to foster a deeper sense of competition amongst the team to avoid complacency.

“I want to make sure that our guys don’t take it for granted that they’re on the team, that they’re a good player, that they’re a starter and don’t really have to work that hard because somebody’s always trying to take your position,” Alexander said. “When you’ve got a lot of good competition, usually you’ve got a better team.”

King said he’s confident the upcoming season will bring a different atmosphere to Tom Adams Field.

“I feel like this year they can truly believe that we are going to go out there and do our best and look good doing it,” he said. “We’ll get the job done.”



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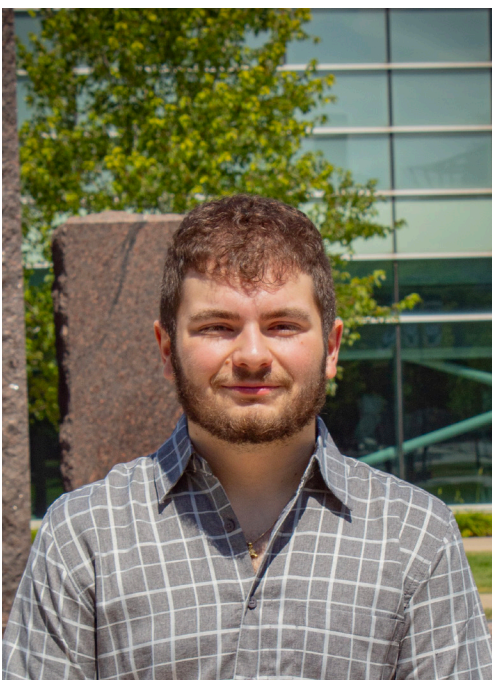
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