Pivotal moments happen at Wayne State every day.

Wayne State University changes lives—the lives of students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members. Many people work together to make these life-changing moments possible, including our donors. Their gifts to Wayne State, gifts of all sizes to every school and college, help the university grow and thrive.

In the year since we publicly launched Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University, we have received many generous gifts. In the pages that follow, you will find a small sample of these gifts and their impact on areas throughout the university. I look forward to sharing more stories like these in future years of the campaign.

I invite you to learn more about Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University and join our university’s transformational endeavors. Thank you for your support.

M. Roy Wilson
President, Wayne State University

Detroit’s acclaimed Selected of God Choir and President Wilson celebrate the public launch of Pivotal Moments
Launching Pivotal Moments

Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University publicly launched on October 9, 2014 with a day-long celebration on campus. The campaign has an ambitious goal to raise $750 million by 2018, the university’s 150th anniversary. More than 1,100 students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university joined the launch celebration.

The day began with The Showcases, hosted by Wayne State’s schools, colleges, institutes and programs. Events took place across campus and included student performances, lectures, presentations and a hard-hat tour of the Student Center renovation.

Following The Showcases, guests traveled to the Hilberry Theatre for The Premiere, the official launch event of the campaign. The Premiere included performances, videos and live stories from students and faculty members, illustrating the four campaign priorities to inspire, discover, create and engage. The Premiere ended with an exciting announcement from alumnus James Anderson ’66 B.S., ’70 M.S. who, along with his wife Patricia, contributed $25 million to establish the James and Patricia Anderson Engineering Ventures Institute to foster entrepreneurship in the College of Engineering.

The evening ended with The Gala, a special dinner for Wayne State’s most generous donors, and The Celebration, a street fair for students. In partnership with the Dean of Students Office, The Celebration was held on Reuther Mall and included food trucks, crafts, music, dancing, giveaways and performances by student organizations.

The university also celebrated Pivotal Moments around the country with special regional launches in 11 cities. More than 630 alumni and friends attended the events to learn about the campaign and connect with Wayne State.
HONORARY CHAIRS

- Robert Allsace and Margaret Allsace ’84 M.Ed., ’82 D.H.L.*
- Eugene Applebaum ’60 B.S., ’66 LL.D. and Marcia Applebaum
- Julius Combs ’35 B.S., ’58 M.D. and Alice Combs

STEERING COMMITTEE

James Anderson ’66 B.S., ’70 M.S.
College of Engineering, chair, WSU Foundation Board, representative

Brooks Bock ’69 M.D.
School of Medicine, co-chair

Pamela Bock ’17 M.D.
School of Medicine, co-chair

Arthur Bryant, Sr. ’71 B.A.
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Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, representative

Marilyn Kelly ’71 B.A., ’79 LL.D.
Law School, co-chair, Board of Governors member

* Indicates membership on the WSU Foundation Board

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- Robert Brown ’95 M.S.
- Robert Brincheck and Valerie Brincheck
- Gary Cone
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SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

CAMPBELL LEADERSHIP

The Pivotal Moments campaign leadership consists of honorary chairs and a steering committee that includes representation from the Wayne State University Foundation Board and each of the school, college and unit campaign committees.

HONORARY CHAIRS

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WSU Foundation Board, co-chair

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Eugene Driker ’59 B.A., ’61 J.D., ’01 LL.D.
WSU Foundation Board, representative

Paul Glantz ’80 B.A.
WSU Foundation Board, representative

Yousif Ghafari ’74 B.A., ’75 M.A., ’81 M.S., ’08 LLD
Institute of Gerontology/Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development, co-chair

Suzanne Feetham ’69 M.S.N., Ph.D.
Institute of Gerontology/Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development, co-chair

Carol Edwards
Law School, honorary chair

Eugene Driker ’59 B.A., ’61 J.D., ’01 LL.D.
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David Hempestitd ’75 J.D., co-chair

Marilyn Kelly ’71 B.A., ’79 LL.D., co-chair

Kathryn Humphrey ’80 J.D.
Lawrence Marn ’80 J.D.
Michael Pitt ’80 J.D.
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- Gregory J. Dallman, ’79 B.A., ’81 LL.D.
- Angela Louise Gutz ’66 B.A., ’72 M.A.
- Robert M. Jackson ’61 B.A.
- Michael A. Kneale ’82 B.A., ’90 M.B.A.
- Steven M. Lash ’63 M.D.

* Indicates membership on the WSU Foundation Board
Student success and opportunity

Student success is Wayne State’s top priority. In addition to student support initiatives already in place, the university is continually seeking new ways to promote academic achievement. Recently, the DTE Energy Foundation committed to help Wayne State improve retention and graduation rates with three grants totaling nearly $1.4 million.

The College of Engineering received $1.2 million to support the DTE Energy Foundation Eos Program for Student Success. A second grant of $100,000 awarded to the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies’ Summer Enrichment Program will help incoming first-generation and underrepresented students smoothly transition to college-level academics. A third grant of $48,000 will provide scholarships in the Mike Ilitch School of Business, helping students progress toward graduation.

Through these programs, graduates will help power the Michigan economy.

The DTE Energy Foundation and corporation have a long history of supporting programs at Wayne State and providing internship opportunities for students. Other recent gifts include $500,000 to renovate College of Engineering teaching labs that provide students with hands-on, technical learning experiences.

Scholarships and student success programs, such as those supported by the DTE Energy Foundation, help students like these:

“I started working at DTE for my first computer science internship. I get to help the other engineers figure out what they need to do in order to restore people’s power. That’s a pretty exciting moment.”

Maheen Asghar
Computer science student
College of Engineering

“When my parents were in school, college didn’t even seem like an option. But now when I talk to my nieces and my little cousins, there’s no question; they want to go to Wayne State one day. And it wouldn’t be possible if you didn’t have programs like the Center for Latin American Studies and the Summer Enrichment Program.”

Delbert Trafny
History student
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“I would not be graduating from Wayne State this year if I hadn’t received scholarships. Receiving a scholarship showed that someone believed in me, and that helped me get through tough semesters and classes.”

Alexa Gates ’18 B.A.
Global supply chain management student
Mike Ilitch School of Business
The School of Medicine’s first Skupski Scholar is William Perry, now in his second year of medical school. Perry grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and chose to attend Wayne State because of the diverse clinical experiences offered to medical students. “I know people who have gone through the program and said they are extremely comfortable in any clinical situation by the time they leave,” said Perry. He has found the faculty members are very accessible and talented instructors.

Perry was awarded the James N. Skupski, M.D., M.P.H. and Dianne Widzinski Endowed Scholarship early in his first year, and it has alleviated stress about the expense of medical school. “That definitely opened up experiences and opportunities for me that I probably would not have had otherwise,” he said. Perry works in the community through the School of Medicine’s co-curricular program, and he spent the past summer doing infectious disease research at the Detroit Medical Center.

An enduring legacy

In the words of longtime friend Kurt Kazanowski ’81 M.S., James Skupski ’76 B.S., ’80 M.D. was without a doubt “a true Wayne State guy.” After earning his degrees from the university he loved, Skupski became a faculty member and academic leader at the School of Medicine, enjoying every minute of the experience.

Skupski’s wife, Dianne Widzinski ’79 B.S., knows precisely why her late husband was devoted to Wayne State. She said, “It was because Jim felt he garnered the finest education possible at WSU, an education he firmly believed served him most admirably throughout his successful medical career.”

And perhaps Skupski had another important reason to reflect fondly upon Wayne State—it is where he met his wife of 32 years. The two enjoyed a life of great joy and love before Jim prematurely passed away in 2011 at the age of 58.

According to Widzinski, the pinnacle of Skupski’s career was his receipt of two School of Medicine teaching awards in 2005. “Of all the pursuits he enjoyed, Jim was a teacher first,” she noted. “His kind spirit and generosity with students was profound.”

Skupski also had quite the comedic wit. “Jim had a very unique sense of humor,” said Kazanowski. As a medical student, Skupski enjoyed participating in the end-of-year lampoon tradition. “Jim loved that. His creative juices just flowed,” said Widzinski.

In 2014, Widzinski established the James N. Skupski, M.D., M.P.H. and Dianne Widzinski Endowed Scholarship to further support the medical students Skupski loved. Their generous $2 million gift provides a full-tuition scholarship for students through all four years of medical school.

“I couldn’t think of a better way to honor Jim,” said Widzinski. “His life and legacy will live on through these students, as well as those they serve throughout the years.”

INSPIRE

One of the Pivotal Moments priority areas is to inspire our students and faculty to be curious and passionate. Students are Wayne State’s top priority, and the university’s greatest offering is preparing students for personal and professional success. Investment in scholarships and student success programs at Wayne State helps provide all promising students with access to higher education at a world-class research university.
Faculty and staff make a difference

Peter with his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry, and Karen with her B.A. in chemistry, B.S. in nursing and M.Ed. in instructional technology, firmly believe in the power of a Wayne State degree. To help others, the couple established the Karen L. and Peter D. Frade Endowed Scholarship in the pathologists assistant program at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

“These are high-flyers,” said Peter, who directs the program as chair of the Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences. “They will be the eyes, ears and hands of the pathologist in diagnostic medicine. They are so worthy of a scholarship.”

“We could see the passion in these students,” said Karen, who also taught in the department for many years. “They’re driven just like Peter and I were as students, so donating to their goals was an easy decision.”

The Frades created the scholarship through a pledge as part of Wayne State’s faculty and staff giving program, and they have been contributing through payroll deduction to complete the gift. They believe faculty and staff giving is important because it demonstrates the passion Wayne State has for improving its community.

“We’re beginning to grow a magnificent revitalized culture here in Detroit,” said Peter. “Wayne State is an integral part of this, and it’s our obligation as members of the academic community to give back.”

Faculty and staff members understand first-hand the importance of giving to Wayne State. In fiscal year 2015, they generously contributed gifts and pledges totaling nearly $1.5 million to support a variety of initiatives including scholarships, programs, research and new facilities.

“Scholarships mean more than just a financial investment. They mean that someone sees how hard you work and supports you. Having two people as respected as Dr. and Mrs. Frade value you for who you are is gratifying and humbling. It’s flattering that the Frades hold me in that high regard.”

Robert Portelli ’13 B.S.
Karen L. and Peter D. Frade Endowed Scholarship
Pathologists’ assistant program
Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

“My scholarships allow me to pursue my aspirations without worrying about financial constraints. I’m able to focus on my studies, volunteering and student organizations rather than trying to find a job while going to school.”

Grace Albers
Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies Scholarship
Future Nurse Professionals Scholarship
College of Nursing

“I’ve had scholarships that are focused on students finishing school, and you really feel that the school wants you to finish. They want people that are going to be alumni, that are going to drive change and affect the university as a whole.”

Justen White
Berman Crossing the Finish Line Engineering Scholarship
Industrial engineering student
College of Engineering
President M. Roy Wilson launched the inaugural Baroudeur bike ride at Wayne State University on August 22, 2015. The Baroudeur, which means “fighter” or “warrior” in French, is Detroit’s first century ride and included 20-, 50-, 62- and 100-mile courses through the city. More than 1,100 cyclists participated in the event, raising approximately $10,000 for scholarships to benefit Wayne State students.

The ride started and ended in the center of Wayne State’s campus in front of the newly renovated Student Center and Fountain Court. Participants also enjoyed a post-ride celebration on campus. “I wanted to bring this to Detroit and have people experience the university and the city,” President Wilson said. “I’m hoping this is something we can do every year. We’re off to a good start.”

The support from TeachDETROIT was a great help. I wouldn’t have been able to do the courses without it. The three courses that I took this summer were amazing.

Tiffany Ward TeachDETROIT stipend College of Education

“I received an unexpected scholarship during my first year. I was ecstatic! After a year of nursing experience, I plan on returning to Wayne State to pursue my master’s or doctorate degree in nursing.”

Desireé Stokes College of Nursing Scholarship College of Nursing

“Scholarships are very important to me because they’re a symbol of how hard I have worked at my grades and my golf game.”

Nikki Mollohan Academic Excellence Scholarship Student-athlete (golf) Psychology student College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Irvin D. Reid Honors College

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Nikki Mollohan Academic Excellence Scholarship Student-athlete (golf) Psychology student College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Irvin D. Reid Honors College
A policy of giving back

Business school alumnus Britton Steele ’12 M.B.A. knows the value of mentorship. In 2013, Steele created his own company, Provision Insurance Company, in part because of the support he received from fellow Wayne State alumni like Paul Glantz, co-founder and chairman of Emagine Entertainment and president of Proctor Financial, Inc.

“I had the skill set and the ability, but I needed the confidence,” Steele said. “Paul took the time to meet with me and guide me.” Now Steele is helping other Wayne State students pursue their dreams by establishing a $500,000 planned gift to support scholarships in the Mike Ilitch School of Business. Glantz suggested the gift as a way to re-engage with the business school.

“I was thrilled when Britton decided to follow through with the planned gift,” said Glantz. “It’s a privilege to earn a Wayne State degree, and when you’re bestowed with a great privilege it is your responsibility to give back.”

Steele agreed and said the gift was the right thing to do because of the many great opportunities he received at Wayne State.

“It felt good,” Steele said. “It was a big commitment, but I owe a lot to Wayne State and I felt like I needed to pay it forward.”

Britton Steele’s gift to the business school will support students like these:

“Scholarships are very important to me because they’re helping me graduate with very little debt, and they really help me value the education I’m receiving at Wayne State. They are pushing me to do my best.”

Taylor Smith
Rebecca Joy Butler Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Information systems management student
Mike Ilitch School of Business
Irvin D. Reid Honors College

“I took Introduction to Business the first semester of my freshman year. It sparked my entrepreneurial interest, which ultimately inspired me to create 1701 Consulting Group, a firm that helps startups and small businesses in metro Detroit.”

Amal Shah
Finance and information systems management student
Mike Ilitch School of Business

“I think the best part about getting an internship at the Roostertail was that I found an avenue where I could explore my own creativity and put my own ideas and projects forward. I wanted to put up solar panels, and I found financing. Now we’re installing geothermal systems, a solar carport, we’re redoing the kitchen, the lighting and anything else that uses energy in the facility.”

Michael Haas
Student-athlete (fencing)
Marketing student
Mike Ilitch School of Business
One of the Pivotal Moments priority areas is to discover new approaches, solutions and areas of inquiry through multidisciplinary, translational and applied research. The strong research initiatives set forth by Wayne State have effects that start in Detroit and reach around the world.

Investment in research at Wayne State enables our faculty to innovate, ask questions and find new solutions to society’s greatest challenges— as well as engage our students and train the next generation of research scholars.

Mickey Sperlich ‘12 M.S.W., ’14 Ph.D. worked for many years as a midwife with a special interest in mothers who are survivors of sexual assault. After conducting her own research on the topic, Sperlich co-authored the book Survivor Moms: Women’s Stories of Birthing, Mothering and Healing after Sexual Abuse.

Sperlich was drawn to Wayne State because of the university’s interdisciplinary approach to researching complex social issues, particularly in the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute (MPSI). “I got to benefit from the perspective of so many different researchers,” she said. “And I was very welcomed as a nontraditional student.”

Sperlich received several fellowships and research awards during her time at Wayne State, including the School of Social Work’s Elizabeth N. Brehler Scholars Award. “I feel very fortunate to be able to get this education without going into debt,” she said.

In 2014, Sperlich became the first graduate of Wayne State’s infant mental health dual-title degree program, offered through MPSI to graduate students in social work and nursing. Today she is an assistant professor of social work with the State University of New York at Buffalo.
Discovery across disciplines

When researchers began moving into Wayne State’s new Integrative Biosciences Center (IBio) during the summer of 2015, they found state-of-the-art technology and spaces that encourage collaboration—including a consultation conference room recognizing Drs. Patricia and Robert Gussin.

The Gussins, who have supported the School of Medicine for more than 30 years, gave a generous gift to establish the consultation conference room in the translational research clinic. They hope that as researchers and clinicians meet and share ideas, research in IBio will focus more on patient needs.

“I appreciate the importance of being able to blend basic science with clinical medicine,” said Pat Gussin.

After graduating from the Wayne State University School of Medicine with her M.D. in 1971, Pat had a clinical career, then a research career and is now a New York Times best-selling novelist. “I owe so much in terms of my career to Wayne State,” she said. “There’s not another medical school with such intense training.”

Pat and Bob believe IBio will help advance medicine in Detroit and beyond. Pat said, “This building will enable an incredible increase in the ability to come up with new and needed innovations in medicine.”

Andrew Feig is repurposing bacterial toxins—altering them to prevent illness rather than cause it, and using their translocation abilities to deliver proteins to cells in the body that could affect metabolic diseases.

“I actually owe the idea of transforming toxins into chemical biology reagents to a student,” said Feig, who encourages student researchers to pursue their own lines of inquiry.

“There’s a real transition that happens to a student when they enter a research laboratory. They change from being a consumer of knowledge to a creator of knowledge.”

In addition to the work being done in IBio, faculty and students conduct biomedical research in laboratories across Wayne State’s campus.

Maryssa Mercer’s undergraduate research in biomedical engineering looks at the body as a machine in the same ways her fellow students in the College of Engineering study mechanical systems.

“We use a computer modeling software that is used in the automotive industry throughout Detroit to study crash testing,” Mercer said. “But instead of using automotive occupants, we’re looking at infants and birth.”

The research project, led by Associate Professor Michele Grimm, studies the possible health implications of an infant’s shoulder hitting the maternal pelvis during birth.

“It’s fantastic that you can work really closely with faculty members,” Mercer said of the work. “You have this incredible undergraduate experience of performing research while you’re building a professional network that will help you grow in your future career as an engineer.”

Andrew Feig
Professor of Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Associate Dean
Graduate School

Maryssa Mercer
Biomedical engineering student
College of Engineering
Irvin D. Reid Honors College

Sylvie Naar
Division Director of Behavior Sciences
Department of Family Medicine
and Public Health Sciences
Co-director, obesity and team science program
School of Medicine

Sylvie Naar empowers adolescents in Detroit to prevent and treat four chronic illnesses affecting them at a disproportionately high rate—HIV, obesity, diabetes and asthma.

Naar works with researchers across the university to develop clinical research programs that focus on behavioral interventions, and she will move into the Integrative Biosciences Center (IBio) to help facilitate more collaboration.

“IBio is going to be different. It will bridge Henry Ford Hospital, the medical school and main campus,” Naar said. “It is productivity for the university, but ultimately it’s about improving the health of the population we serve.”

Maryssa Mercer

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Some gifts to Wayne State University are priceless. Thanks to the generosity of Ernest and Jessie Dillard, a collection chronicling their civil rights activism is available to researchers at the Walter P. Reuther Library, part of the University Library System.

The Ernest C. and Jessie M. Dillard Collection contains a wide range of first-hand materials, including speeches, flyers, hand-written reports and personal correspondence. “The collection documents how the civil rights movement nationally owes a debt to Detroit,” said Beth Bates, professor emerita of African American studies.

Both Ernest and Jessie Dillard graduated from the Labor School, a program sponsored in part by Wayne State University. They were active members of the Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and they led successful sit-in efforts to integrate the city’s businesses. Ernest Dillard was the first African American elected to a leadership role within the United Automobile Workers.

Even at age 100, Ernest Dillard continues to advocate for racial equality. In lieu of gifts for his 100th birthday in January 2015, Dillard requested that donations be made to the Walter P. Reuther Library Archives Fund to support the collection and sharing of labor and race relations history. “It’s a wonderful gift to the future to give to the Reuther,” said Bates.

Erin Casey ’11 B.P.A. was searching through boxes filled with old documents and photos in the Walter P. Reuther Library when she realized she was touching a historical treasure—an original document signed by Martin Luther King, Jr. “It was really emotional, and I got a little choked up,” Casey recalled.

Casey earned her bachelor’s degree in public affairs at Wayne State and is now a student in the master of public administration program. She works as a research assistant for Beth Bates, professor emerita of African American studies, focusing on Detroit’s grassroots civil rights movement.

Casey hopes to someday work on policy issues for the state legislature, but she truly enjoys the work she’s doing now. “I absolutely love being in Reuther,” said Casey. “I get to sift through history. It’s pretty incredible.”
On May 8, 2015, the Anderson Institute hosted its inaugural Student Design and Innovation Day, showcasing an impressive array of student projects from the College of Engineering’s eight departments. Innovations included a floor covering that generates electricity from foot traffic and a solar-powered security system for boats. The event drew a large crowd of researchers, community members and corporate decision makers.

Mary Desjarlais was a member of the winning team, Project Porta. Desjarlais and fellow computer science students Mahmoud Eraqi and Michael Simons teamed with two art students from the College for Creative Studies to design an augmented reality comic book. The design employs interactive 3-D graphics to provide an immersive user experience.

“The project required us to envision options and design features that have never been created before,” Desjarlais said.

Desjarlais graduated in August 2015 with her bachelor’s degree and recently started a job in software development for General Motors. She also is bringing her own Android application design to the marketplace, spurred on by her team’s success in the design day competition.

On October 9, 2014, as the Wayne State community celebrated the launch of the Pivotal Moments campaign, Jim Anderson ’66 B.S., ’70 M.S. brought the Hilberry Theatre audience to its feet when he pledged $25 million to support innovation and entrepreneurship in the College of Engineering, the largest gift in the college’s history.

This gift established the James and Patricia Anderson Engineering Ventures Institute, which will help faculty members bring innovative technology created through their research to market, while providing mentorship and resources to advance entrepreneurship among students.

When Anderson first came to Wayne State University in 1963, he encountered an educational experience that encouraged creative thinking and the hard work needed to bring his most ambitious ideas to life. He thrived in this environment, first as a student and later as a member of the engineering faculty. Today, Anderson is the president and CEO of Urban Science, a global automotive retail consulting firm headquartered in Detroit.

As he announced his historic gift for engineering innovation, Anderson declared his intention to make “MIT the Wayne State of the east and Stanford the Wayne State of the west.” One year later, the Anderson Institute is already fueling a culture of invention within the College of Engineering.
One of the Pivotal Moments priority areas is to create fresh expressions of existing knowledge. At Wayne State, we imagine what’s possible and then we make it real—from the stage and the laboratory to the classroom and the lecture hall.

Throughout campus, investment in new and refurbished spaces will foster collaboration as we innovate for the future and preserve our collective history.

In honor of their generosity, the home was rededicated the Tierney Alumni House at a special celebration on September 30, 2015.

Wayne State purchased the mansion in September 2014 from the Detroit-based law firm Charfoos & Christensen, P.C., which restored the home to its original glory in 1991. The home was designed by architect Louis Kamper in the late 19th century for Col. Frank J. Hecker and his family, who lived there until 1927. In subsequent years, the home operated as a boarding house and the offices of Smiley Brothers Music Company.

The Tierneys’ gift will create a $1 million endowment to ensure the Tierney Alumni House is preserved and maintained for generations. An additional $1 million will support future programming. The building will house staff from the Alumni Association, Annual Giving, the HIGH Program and emeriti faculty members.

“We are passionate about supporting education, arts and culture,” said Tom Tierney. “It is a worthy investment to preserve this home that is not only a work of art, but also a beloved piece of history in Detroit.”
When students returned to campus this fall, they discovered exciting changes in the Student Center. Originally built in 1969, the building that serves as the hub of campus life was renovated and expanded to provide more locations for students to lounge, study and engage.

On the center of campus

“Looked around and noticed students everywhere. The smiles on their faces really made me see the value that a positive change like this one can have.”

William F. Alexander III
Student Senate President
Spanish student
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“I was surprised by how much of an upgrade it was. It made me feel appreciated that the school wants us to have nice things on campus.”

Leah Ellis
Student-athlete (track and field)
Kinesiology student
College of Education

“I came in and I was like, ‘wow.’”

Samar Saab
Mathematics student
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“Last semester was a little bit of a struggle because there wasn’t as much gathering space, but having this nice social, open environment is really good for campus morale.”

Kevin Adamia
Law School

While the Student Center can be a good place to study, it’s also a place to have fun. One new space is the gaming lounge on the lower level, dedicated to the memory of former student Erick Wujcik. In the 1970s, he was the head of the Wayne State Weregamers Society, which later evolved into the Detroit Gaming Center. Wujcik built a career as an accomplished game designer before he passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2008.

Wujcik’s mother, Nora Wujcik ’70 B.A., ’73 M.A., and Wujcik’s sister, Peggy Lavigne ’76 B.A., supported the gaming lounge with a generous gift.
Between the mid-1960s and the mid-1980s, a community of artists created groundbreaking works in the neighborhood around Wayne State. The Cass Corridor movement was a pivotal moment for Detroit's art community, and many of its members studied or taught at the university.

In September 2015, former faculty member and university supporter John Hilberry presented nearly 300 original Cass Corridor works to Wayne State. The collection includes pieces from Gordon Newton, Robert Sestok and other prominent movement contributors.

“This Cass Corridor stuff is pretty adventuresome. It’s not nice pictures of sailboats,” Hilberry said. “There’s a kind of exhilaration about it.”

Hilberry amassed the collection with his late wife, Andronike Tsagaris. The pieces will join the university’s permanent art collection and will be displayed on campus.

Ashley Nivison is pursuing her bachelor of fine arts degree with a concentration in fibers, and she wants to enroll next in the graduate art therapy program in the College of Education. She plans to use her passion for creation to serve the community around her.

“I like the art community in Detroit because everyone wants to build something, to build on each other,” Nivison said. “Being at Wayne State, you get to feed off of other people’s energy and use it to create something new.”

Hilberry taught architecture at Wayne State during the Cass Corridor movement, and his father, Clarence, was the university’s fourth president. Tsagaris was a Wayne Law alumna, and Hilberry views the gift as a tribute to her passion for art.

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts received a $100,000 gift from former Board of Governors member Danialle Karmanos ’01 B.A. to benefit undergraduate and graduate students in public issues journalism.

“Wayne State’s journalism program prepares students to be hardworking professionals with a deep commitment to improving our community through truthful communication,” Karmanos said. “I am proud that I can help further this work.”

Journalism student Kiran Saini chose Wayne State University because she wanted to gain real-world experience in reporting.

“I think Detroit is a great place for news,” Saini said. “For a journalist, Detroit offers so many awesome opportunities to cover important issues.”

In May 2015, Saini was thrust into covering the city’s news through an investigative reporting class taught by former Detroit Free Press investigative reporter Joel Thurtell.

“It was similar to working in a real newsroom,” Saini said. “It taught me to work on deadline, sift through documents and uncover important information that the public deserves to know. It was a hard class, but an awesome experience.”

Community-focused journalism also thrives on Wayne State’s campus through WDET, a public radio station that provides outstanding local, regional and national reporting.

Investigating Detroit

The College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts received a $100,000 gift from former Board of Governors member Danialle Karmanos ’01 B.A. to benefit undergraduate and graduate students in public issues journalism.

The gift established the Danialle Karmanos Public Issues Journalism Project, a professional project aimed at developing student-driven public issues journalism through documentary films, investigative series and community-based news websites. The first projects will be conducted in 2016.

“Wayne State’s journalism program prepares students to be hardworking professionals with a deep commitment to improving our community through truthful communication,” Karmanos said. “I am proud that I can help further this work.”
Community as classroom

Carolyn McGrory ’75 M.Ed. earned her Wayne State degree during the Cold War while living in the shadow of the Iron Curtain. During the 1970s, Wayne State offered graduate courses to Americans in West Berlin, where McGrory and her family lived for several years while her husband worked as a pilot for Pan American World Airways.

Despite never having set foot on campus, McGrory feels a great affinity for Wayne State. “The professors who came from Wayne State were really first-rate,” she said. Her graduate degree in educational psychology and counseling perfectly complemented her bachelor’s degree in nursing. After returning to the United States, she was immediately offered a teaching position.

McGrory has since held a variety of positions, working at university hospitals, the Arthritis Foundation and the Lupus Foundation of America. She currently is doing research through the National Transplantation Pregnancy Registry.

Last year, McGrory began thinking about giving back to Wayne State. “I owe so much to Wayne State,” she said. “The degree from the College of Education is really what started me on such an interesting path.”

After considering several giving options, she found the right fit when she heard about the College of Education’s new TeachDETROIT program. McGrory attended excellent public schools while growing up in Philadelphia, and she is passionate about the need to improve the quality of urban public schools today. Her gift provided TeachDETROIT with critical early support.

TeachDETROIT is an innovative urban teacher residency program. Participants spend two full days a week in high-needs schools in Detroit, gaining critical teaching experience and completing their own specialized coursework. After 15 months of intensive training, students earn an elementary teaching certificate.

“I love the fact that we get to learn and practice at the same time. I feel very lucky to be part of TeachDETROIT.”
Gylbert Musarat
College of Education

ENGAGE

One of the Pivotal Moments priority areas is to engage through community service, enriching the culture and economy of Detroit and beyond. Wayne State has a long history of addressing issues that affect people who live and work beyond our campus boundaries, as well as preparing students to address those issues.

Investing in research and service activities that impact our community supports a crucial piece of Wayne State’s urban mission.

During the 2014–2015 academic year, WSU student-athletes spent a record 10,754 hours volunteering in Detroit and its surrounding communities.

“Being in the Honors College is fun because you get to interact with Detroit in a special way. I’m involved with the Detroit Fellows Tutoring Project, and I go to Spain Elementary to teach young kids how to read. It’s about leadership and service, and being a member of this amazing community of Wayne State and Detroit.”
Karrington Seals
Student-athlete (track and field)
Pre-med student
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Irvin D. Reid Honors College

“I wanted to pursue my graduate education at Wayne State because it allowed me to connect with events and people in the city.”
Megan Domanski
School of Library and Information Science
On October 20, 2015, the Levin Center at Wayne Law hosted its first national conference in Washington, D.C. The conference, titled “Congressional Oversight of Classified Programs – 40 Years after the Church Committee,” reviewed the status of the Church Committee reforms of 1975 and Congress’ ability to oversee classified programs.

The U.S. Senate’s Church Committee, convened in 1975 and led by Senator Frank Church of Idaho, was tasked with investigating federal intelligence operations in the wake of the Watergate scandal and the revelation of spying by the CIA on anti-war activists.

The importance of the conference’s topic was underscored by recent disputes between Congress and the Executive Branch over the CIA interrogation program and the National Security Agency’s expansive eavesdropping on the American public.

Former Senator Carl Levin moderated discussions and presented the day’s final panel, along with former Senator Richard Lugar.

In March 2015, Wayne State University announced the creation of the Levin Center at Wayne Law, named in honor of Senator Carl M. Levin, Michigan’s longest-serving U.S. Senator. “I am honored to be a part of Wayne State University and its Law School, which are both doing so much to promote community service and public interest,” said Senator Levin.

The Levin Center at Wayne Law will educate future attorneys, business leaders, legislators and public servants on bipartisan, effective techniques to oversee public and private sector activities, using oversight as an instrument of change and as a means to increase integrity, transparency and accountability in civil society. Senator Levin will serve as a Distinguished Legislator in Residence, teaching classes and seminars on law and policy, legislative processes and oversight.

Since its founding, the Levin Center has raised $1.2 million from many generous donors to support academic coursework, workshops, training sessions, national conferences and research. The Levin Center aims to establish a $5 million endowed fund to provide permanent support for its programming.

“The Levin Center’s ultimate objective is to improve the quality of public policy decision-making through fact-based inquiries,” said Senator Levin. “We hope the Center’s work will enrich not only Detroit and Michigan, but our country as a whole.”
Working together to transform Detroit

The Kresge Foundation is committed to the renewal of Detroit, making it a natural partner for the city’s largest university. The foundation has a long history of supporting Wayne State and has contributed more than $11 million in the past five years for programs that improve our city and our campus.

One such program is the Detroit Revitalization Fellows (DRF), which recently selected its third cohort of talented mid-career leaders to work in the city. Alongside this third cohort, the Kresge Foundation helped launch a new DRF initiative in August 2015—the Kresge Mayor’s Fellows.

The Kresge Mayor’s Fellows work within the City of Detroit Mayor’s Office, addressing cross-departmental challenges and opportunities to advance quality of life for and with Detroiters while building capacity for the administration. The three Mayor’s Fellows were selected competitively from the first two cohorts of Detroit Revitalization Fellows. A $750,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation made it possible for Wayne State to administer the new program.

Kresge Foundation President Rip Rapson believes the foundation’s investment in DRF and the Mayor’s Fellows will leave a lasting impact on Detroit. He said the program is “worth its weight in gold in terms of the quality of people attracted to the program, impact on organizations and the overall approach to talent and capacity.”

More than 80 percent of previous Detroit Revitalization Fellows have stayed in the city.

Kresge Mayor’s Fellows

Diana Flora has a passion for data-driven strategies that inform solutions for community and economic development. Originally from St. Clair, Michigan, Flora has a dual master’s degree in public policy and urban planning from the University of Michigan. As a 2013–15 Detroit Revitalization Fellow, Flora served as a project manager at Data Driven Detroit. She now works under a senior adviser of Police Chief James Craig.

“There’s something I’ve always loved about working to serve my neighbors,” said Flora. “I think that working in government and the public sector is probably the highest call of service.”

Jeanet Kulcsar is from St. Clair, Michigan, and has been working in the economic development field for the past 10 years. She obtained a bachelor’s degree in economics from Eastern Michigan University and a master of public administration from California State University. Kulcsar returned to Michigan in 2011 to be a Detroit Revitalization Fellow and work at Invest Detroit.

Kulcsar plans to make a measurable impact during her time as a Kresge Mayor’s Fellow. “I want to make sure that we are biting off something that we can really accomplish in two years,” she said.

Jerrell Harris is originally from Albany, Georgia, Jerrell Harris received his bachelor’s degree in sociology from Georgia State University as well as a master’s degree in urban policy studies. In 2013, Harris moved to Detroit to be a Detroit Revitalization Fellow at Focus: HOPE. A knack for removing barriers and eliminating inefficiencies makes Harris a natural community development advocate.

“I want to make sure we continue to be an inclusive city, that we are world-class and that if you live here, there’s a sense of pride that Detroit is the best place to be,” said Harris.
PIVOTAL MOMENTS
A YEAR BY THE NUMBERS
October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

$1.5 MILLION Gifts from faculty and staff
$32.6 MILLION To support faculty
$8.3 MILLION Corporate giving
$14.3 MILLION Foundation giving
$40.5 MILLION Documented planned gifts
$47.4 MILLION Gifts from alumni

$935,000 Record amount raised by student call center
193 New scholarships created
$15.5 MILLION To support students
$45.8 MILLION To support the endowment
$40.5 MILLION Documented planned gifts
$47.4 MILLION Gifts from alumni

228 New members of the Anthony Wayne Society (202) and Old Main Society (26)

$99.2 MILLION Fiscal year 2015 total

$464.8 MILLION Total raised to date toward campaign goal of $750 million
Wayne State University Board of Governors
Gary S. Pollard, chair, Paul E. Massaron, vice chair, Diane L. Dunaskiss, Marilyn Kelly, David A. Nicholson, Sandra Hughes O’Brien, Dana Thompson, Kim Trent, M. Roy Wilson, ex officio