

THE Engaged

Scholar MAGAZINE

“The work that our students engage in is vital, and it makes a real impact on the lives of Detroiters.”

JOSHUA SAPOTICHNE

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Director, InnovateGov Program; Director, Master of Public Policy Program, College of Social Science



detroit

The 2019 InnovateGov Program team: Joshua Sapotichne, Kesicia Dickinson, and Marty Jordan work with MSU students to promote an immersive internship in Detroit. SEE PAGE 26.



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FOREWORD



It's the creative and entrepreneurial heart of Michigan. Just think music and cars, and that big D pops right into your head.

In the past, Detroit was a roaring, brawny titan, with a population of 1.86 million at its peak in 1950. Even now, at little more than a third of that size (about 673,000 residents as of 2017), it's still more than three times the population of the second largest city in the state, Grand Rapids.

By the 1960s Detroit had begun to face a host of economic challenges that ran head-on into the rise of the new global economy in the 1970s and 1980s, including the formation of OPEC, competition from German and Japanese automakers, and other constraints. By 2009, GM and Chrysler were bankrupt. In 2013, the city itself filed the largest municipal bankruptcy case in U.S. history.

The road back is proving to be long and painful, but it *is* happening. It's been helped by private investments, most notably by MSU alumnus and local booster Dan Gilbert of Quicken Loans, but much of the city's resurgence is being driven by the formation of public-private-nonprofit partnerships. This model for economic development and revitalization has seen enormous success in Detroit, and MSU is a big part of that.

This issue of *The Engaged Scholar Magazine* contains stories about collaborative MSU/Detroit partnerships in such areas as urban agriculture, renewable energy, medicine, education, and leadership development. But don't think for a minute that we've forgotten about music or cars. We have stories about those too.

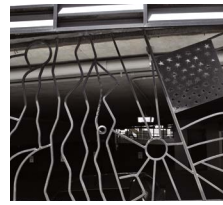
Taking the time to be inclusive, participatory, empowering, systemic—that's how MSU is working to create sustainable change.

Linda Chapel Jackson
Editor



IN MEMORIAM

Just as we were going to press we learned that Dean Carpenter, lead preceptor at Detroit Street Care (see pp. 6-9, this issue), died August 17. A message from his students posted on DSC's Facebook page said, "Our work will not be the same without him. Dean worked tirelessly to improve the health and lives of the people of Detroit...He was a beloved mentor, teacher, and leader for us and we cannot begin to express how much he will be missed."



CONTENTS

PAGE 2	► It's a Win-Win: Making Detroit's Wastewater Sustainable
PAGE 5	► College of Education: Urban Initiatives in Detroit and Beyond
PAGE 6	► Detroit Street Care: Student-Led Medical Outreach
PAGE 10	► MSU-Detroit Impact Team
PAGE 11	► Detroit High School Students and World Class Opera
PAGE 13	► MSU Community Music School-Detroit
PAGE 14	► From Student to Community Partner
PAGE 15	► From Mentor to University Partner
PAGE 19	► MSU Detroit Center
PAGE 20	► Learning From the Dead: The Human Postmortem Microbiome Database
PAGE 24	► Automotive Research Partnership in Detroit
PAGE 25	► Pipeline to Veterinary Medical Education
PAGE 26	► When the Ordinary Becomes an Extraordinary Experience: The InnovateGov Summer Internship Program
PAGE 29	► Collaborating to Serve Latino Youth in Southwest Detroit
PAGE 30	► Building Partnerships and Programs that Make a Difference
PAGE 32	► Agricultural Research Center Comes to Detroit
PAGE 33	► Science Gallery Detroit
PAGE 34	► News and Notes
PAGE 37	► Outreach and Engagement Snapshot at MSU
PAGE 38	► 2019 MSU Awards Honor Outstanding University-Community Collaborations

ERRATUM (page 37)

The percentages of OEMI respondents whose outreach contributed to achieving Bolder by Design imperatives in 2017 were reported incorrectly in *The Engaged Scholar Magazine*, Vol. 13 (2018). The numbers should have been: overall 93.3%; enhanced the student experience 70.8%; enriched community, economic, and family life 76.9%; expanded international reach 33.0%; increased research opportunities 54.2%; strengthened stewardship 49.3%; and advanced our culture of high performance 65.1%.

ITS A WIN-WIN

Making Detroit's Wastewater Sustainable

By Amy Byle

Detroit's Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) processes between half and three-quarters of a billion gallons of wastewater a day, more than any other plant in the country. Only a small fraction of that wastewater—one or two percent—is in the form of residuals, called biosolids. But the cost of managing those biosolids—according to Steve Safferman, associate professor in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering—is quite high.

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) operates the Detroit WRRF, and is working toward transitioning the plant to increase its use of renewable energy. Safferman is part of a team working with them to develop innovative ways to safely, economically, and sustainably manage the biosolids. “They’re very interested in being more sustainable, as well as potentially saving money,” said Safferman. “So they’re doing a 20-year master plan, which includes looking at what to do to manage these solids. Should they do it any differently than they’re doing it now?”

To answer that question, Wendy Barrott, manager of Research and Innovation at GLWA, is working with Safferman and several other MSU researchers on two projects.

The first project looks at converting the biosolids into energy. “GLWA has a long-term goal to become energy neutral,” said Barrott. “So that’s going to require us to be very energy efficient and also recover energy from the biosolids.”

From Biosolids to Sustainable Energy

In nature, converting complex organic materials, like biosolids, to energy happens in geological formations deep underground,



Steve Safferman with an anaerobic digester, a unit that uses microbiology to boost the energy producing potential of wastewater biosolids.

where microorganisms anaerobically convert these materials into the natural gas, methane. The goal of Safferman and his partners is to engineer the most efficient, productive, and cost-effective way to

replicate this process with the wastewater biosolids. They are testing two methods of making this conversion: microbiologically, using anaerobic digestion, and thermally, using pyrolysis.

Courtesy of Steve Safferman

According to Safferman, adding other forms of organic waste—such as food waste—to the biosolids, and then using a process called anaerobic digestion, can significantly boost the energy-producing potential. “The microbiology is really complex, but the engineering is very simple,” said Safferman. “It’s just a big tank with a mixer. And then

What followed was a lot of laboratory testing and preparation for a pilot-scale study. “It looked good on paper, but the microbiology is so complex that you have to try it in the laboratory,” explained Safferman. “So we’ve been running biogas assays. And then, even if it works in the lab, the lab is really small scale, and it

Anaerobic digestion is not the only way to derive energy from the biosolids. GLWA is also interested in comparing how much energy can be produced if the biosolids are treated thermally, rather than microbiologically. This thermal process, called pyrolysis, uses high heat to derive primarily gases, as well as biochar (a fine-grained, porous charcoal used in environmental applications). Safferman explains the process: “This method treats the biosolids at high temperatures without oxygen. If we go at high temperatures with oxygen, we combust it; we basically make a flame. If we go at really high temperatures without oxygen, we produce a lot of byproducts and the system can actually be sustainable.”

For this part of the project, Safferman has tapped the expertise of colleague Chris Saffron, associate professor in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering and expert on thermochemical conversion, to do the lab work and thermal degradation studies.

The goal is to have a high output of energy in a safe, environmentally-friendly, and cost-effective way. “We have studied the thermal properties of the biosolids, and are in the final phase of completing our thermal conversion study,” said Adhikari. “In the thermal conversion process, we did not identify elevated levels of toxic gases, although more analysis is required.”

Ultimately, the results of this study will help GLWA determine which type of process—anaerobic digestion or pyrolysis—has the better energy output. “At the end we’re going to do an energy balance on both technologies and decide which has the more energy potential, and potentially more profitable technology,” said Safferman.

From Biosolids to Safe Fertilizer

Energy recovery isn’t the only use for the biosolids. This past June, Safferman and colleague Wei Zhang, associate professor in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences, received a second grant from GLWA that looks at the land application of biosolids as fertilizer. “GLWA is one of the largest fertilizer providers in the whole

(continued on page 4)



Courtesy of Steve Safferman

Umesh Adhikari demonstrates components of the anaerobic digestion system to GLWA partners at the Detroit Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility.

you have to get the microorganisms and the environment for them to thrive. It’s a natural process; we just engineer it to make it more efficient and to be able to collect the gas.”

After doing a feasibility study to locate and estimate the energy potential of the sources of organic waste within a five to ten mile radius of the plant, Safferman’s team needed to determine which organic waste—such as cafeteria food waste—should be tested in the digestion system. They found a commercial waste processing system owned by Waste Management® that takes food waste and turns it into a liquefied form, called Engineered Bioslurry®. According to Safferman, GLWA was excited to try it, and Waste Management® agreed that Detroit may be a potential location for the technology based on preliminary modeling.

doesn’t necessarily represent what a big, million-gallon tank would look like. So we built two pilot units for GLWA.”

His post-doctoral research associate, Umesh Adhikari, “has been the heart of this project,” said Safferman. “He’s fantastic, and he’s the one who goes back and forth to Detroit a lot.” He designed and constructed the pilot-scale units, and is in charge of many of the day-to-day research activities, including the laboratory testing to identify the best feedstock for co-digestion with the biosolids. “Initial results show that the biosolids produced at the Detroit WRRF have ample nutrients for co-digestion with food processing waste,” said Adhikari. “A co-digestion with food and food processing waste can substantially increase the biogas production. We would like to test the findings again in the pilot-scale digesters.”

(continued from page 3)

ITS A WIN-WIN: Making Detroit's Wastewater Sustainable



Above: Biochar, a fine-grained, porous charcoal used in environmental applications, is one byproduct of pyrolysis. Below: Aerial photo of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

region because of the beneficial uses of this fertilizer," said Safferman. "It has lots of nitrogen and phosphorus in it. So the goal is to use these residuals for beneficial purposes. And because of the life-cycle cost of nutrients, repurposing it has potential financial benefit. But the problem is, if we don't do it properly, we can cause issues. And so this follow-up project looks at what happens to the phosphorus when we apply this material and if we prepare it different ways."

The project is still in its early stages, so there are many questions to answer. GLWA's Wendy Barrott is also working with Safferman on this new project and wants to know how the dried biosolids release nutrients in real-world conditions in the soils.

"We think that the phosphorus is really tied up, but we don't know," she said. "We don't know how much nitrogen is available. Steve is going to be doing some column tests with the biosolids in the soils, and then

some field work to measure what happens to those nutrients in the soil during the growing season. We want to know if they're fast- or slow-released; do the plants take them up; what goes on with them? We want to know this for our biosolids planning for the future, if continuing what we're doing is a good way to go."

While many of us don't think of Detroit as having a major agricultural impact, this urban/rural integration is important to Safferman. "One thing that I've been talking about is the need to not consider urban, rural, and suburban as separate, that they are absolutely interactive. They can interact negatively and they can interact positively," he said. "So we're trying to develop some

expertise in anaerobic digestion; yet we have a need to understand specifically how anaerobic digestion performs on our particular material," said Barrott. "So we have an expert like Safferman giving us guidance."

Safferman readily acknowledges the two-way benefit. "The partnership is a great example of the university working with a municipal authority to help them out, but also enables us to do state-of-the-art research," he said. "It's not just that we're doing work for them. We're a partnership."

"We're doing a lot of cool things. If we can pull it all together, it'll be great!" said Barrott. "This is our first project being done with our work at the plant. So we're learning so much about what it's going to take to do things, to plan...It's just a learning curve for us and for Steve and everybody."

"This is stuff that I thrive on; it's very holistic," said Safferman. "And it's a compounding benefit: we're saving and making money by getting high-strength

“The partnership is a great example of the university working with a municipal authority to help them out, but also enables us to do state-of-the-art research.”

concepts and ultimately programs that demonstrate that interconnection. And the GLWA project in Detroit illustrates it better than anything else."

A Collaboration that's a Win-Win

Planning for the management of these wastewater biosolids is a big deal—environmentally and economically—for Detroit and Southeast Michigan, and collaborations between industry and academia are critical to the process. "The reason I think these collaborations are important is that we don't have in-house

waste out of the sewer, which costs a lot of money to treat, and we're also taking it out of the landfill. So I think this is a win-win. If you can make money, and if you can be more sustainable, and if you can reduce greenhouse gases, everybody wins." 🌱

STEVEN SAFFERMAN

Associate Professor
Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
College of Engineering



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Urban Initiatives in Detroit and Beyond

The College of Education at Michigan State University has a record of successful partnerships in service to urban students and educators, and many efforts have been designed to help teachers and researchers gain the knowledge and experiences needed to effect positive change in urban contexts. Key initiatives include the following.



Courtesy of University Communications

Urban Educators Cohort Program

This program gives future educators the tools to understand the history and effects of social, cultural, and financial issues that play out in urban schools and to effectively meet the needs of all learners in these contexts. Incoming freshman have the opportunity to experience specialized courses and activities together as a close-knit group for the first two years on campus and then continue in the Teacher Preparation Program.

education.msu.edu/teacher-preparation/urban

Urban Immersion Fellowship

This competitive, paid fellowship offers students the opportunity to spend seven weeks in Detroit, working with Detroit Schools Summer School programming or a Detroit-based nonprofit community organization serving children, youth, and families. Students receive in-depth exposure to the City of Detroit and its community resources as they develop into highly effective urban educators and leaders.

education.msu.edu/urbanimmersion/fellowship

Master of Arts in K-12 Educational Administration

The M.A. in K-12 Educational Administration prepares aspiring educators for leadership positions in public, charter, and private schools. Its hybrid format allows practicing educators to be part of a strong community of leaders; experience rigorous, high-quality, and collaborative learning experiences; network with colleagues across Michigan and beyond; learn from peers in diverse contexts; and develop relationships with teachers and other students. The Detroit program meets at the MSU Detroit Center on Woodward Avenue.

education.msu.edu/ead/k12/mak12/default.asp

“ The College of Education is deeply committed to preparing educators and educational leaders who will play a critical role in addressing opportunity gaps that exist across schools and communities. We are involved and invested in urban education on multiple fronts, and are addressing the challenges and opportunities that teachers, educational leaders and learners face in urban settings through a lens of possibilities and promise. We know the power of partnerships. All of our efforts in the city are built on a foundation of successful partnerships that have been nurtured throughout the years.

SONYA GUNNINGS-MOTON

Senior Advisor to the Provost
Associate Dean, Support Services and Engagement
College of Education



Allison Jennens and Jaclyn Israel saddle up for a street run.

Detroit Street Care

Student-Led Medical Outreach

By Linda Chapel Jackson

The Tumaini Center is a crisis support hub at Mack and 3rd Avenue that is run by Detroit's Neighborhood Services Organization (NSO). Tumaini is the last stop even for regular shelter-goers. It is the only shelter in Detroit open 24-7. Its clients include those with behavioral issues severe enough to get them turned away from other shelters. Services are beyond bare-bones: There are no beds—not even cots—only a couple of large rooms filled with battered metal folding chairs where people experiencing homelessness can come in to sleep. But hot coffee is available, along with laundry facilities, showers, and a friendly welcome for everybody.

Before 2012 the Tuminai Center's medical service consisted of a part-time staff of one: Dean Carpenter, a family nurse practitioner who also worked at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor, who came in for two days a week. That was about enough time to handle the most urgent cases, but nothing else.

Student-Based, Health-Professional-Led, and Patient-Centered

Then, Jonathan Wong, a medical student at Wayne State University, was inspired to found a clinic that would serve Detroit's homeless community (at the time nearly 20,000 people) directly on the streets and in shelters. Thus, in 2012, with the support of Wong's medical school colleagues and the NSO, a new student organization at Wayne State was born: Street Medicine Detroit (SMD), which billed itself as "student-based, health-professional-led, and patient-centered."

Two years later the fledgling organization was ready to take on new partners. MSU was a natural. Its College of Osteopathic Medicine has a branch campus at the Detroit Medical Center and a strong commitment to public health. Also, both Carpenter and the new medical director of Wayne's Street Medicine Detroit program, Richard Bryce, had received their degrees from Michigan State.

Carpenter had already moved to the NSO full-time when Bryce took on the MSU Detroit Street Care directorship in 2014 (in addition to his faculty appointments at MSU and Wayne; he is also chief medical officer at Community Health and Social Services, a community-based nonprofit that provides health care and support services in partnership with the Henry Ford Health System).

Two Programs Working in Tandem

The MSU and Wayne State teams run separate operations, but with a common goal. They work side-by-side to cover different days and shelters to ensure the clinic is open as often as possible. They share resources—such as a joint EMR—that allow them to provide more thorough and continuous care to some of their regular patients, even when they're not working directly with each other.

The two teams also collaborate on health fairs and community events in Detroit that they are invited to. For example, Councilwoman Pro Tem Mary Sheffield hosts an annual event called "Occupy the Corner" and the two schools staff a table at the event, talking about street medicine and doing blood pressure screenings. This year they co-hosted a table at the NAACP conference, held in Detroit, in July.

A Day at the Clinic

On MSU's day at the Tuminai Center clinic there will usually be 4-10 students. MSU-COM overall has about 100-200 volunteers for the program every year. Although there are only 50 students per class at the Detroit campus, the interest and passion for street medicine has grown so much that students from all three campus locations are now participating. In turn, DSC supports a sister operation in Lansing called Spartan Street Care.



MSU physician Richard Bryce works with Detroit Street Care, an organization that provides medical care to those in need in Detroit.

Allison Jennens and Jaclyn Israel are two second-year Osteopathic Medicine students at MSU. Jennens is president of the Detroit Street Care team and Israel is its communications coordinator.

There is no dedicated clinic space at the Tuminai Center. Jennens, Israel, and their colleagues see patients in a small conference room, all squeezing around each other as necessary. In another room there is a cabinet with medical supplies (many of them donated) and a small, curtained-off area where they can do private examinations. If the clinic is not too busy, it might be possible to find a quiet corner for a doctor and/or social worker to talk with a patient about personal challenges and whether resources are available to help.

Jennens said they treat the most common and acute ailments related to homelessness—things like boxer's fracture (broken knuckles), stasis ulcers (treated with Unna boots), and pneumonia ("most patients are smokers"). Another common complaint is fluid in the legs (peripheral edema). Unfortunately, this condition is exacerbated by sleeping upright in chairs.

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Detroit Street Care: Student-Led Medical Outreach



Paul Phipps

Above: Jaclyn Israel checks supplies at the Tumauni Center clinic. Below: Narcan® nasal spray is freely available from any pharmacist, without a doctor's prescription.

Bryce pointed out that the Detroit Medical Center campus is only a mile away: "It's beautiful. But between here and there you walk by places you have no idea people are living homeless. If you forget, they're still here. Everything for them is complicated."

In addition to their work at the clinic, the students go out on weekly street runs, looking under bridges and in alleys for anyone who might not make it through the night. A van drives them out to several drop-off points in groups of five (mixed juniors and seniors), or they go out on bicycles, carrying medical kits in their backpacks, along with socks, gloves, and other supplies. Again, the Wayne and MSU teams usually go out on different days to reach more people, but sometimes if there is a specific need they will pool their resources to handle it. For example, during the spell of polar vortex weather last winter, they all went out with blankets, clothing, hot chocolate, soup, offers of a ride to the nearest shelter, and anything else they could think of to help.

"The Students Help Decide What We Do"

The MSU program is student-led. This means that with guidance from Bryce and Carpenter, Jennens and her crew take on the challenges of funding, resourcing (not necessarily the same as funding), programming, partnership-building, and other administrative functions while attending to their medical education. Bryce said, "The students help decide what we do. When ideas come up, they set up the training, get the medications paid for, and disperse them in the community."

Funding issues are never-ending. The Detroit Medical Center was recently purchased by a for-profit corporation that does not plan to continue the hospital's support for the Street Care operation. Israel wonders whether its new owners will notice that "the days this place is open, the number of ER calls drops. In the City of Detroit in 2017, NSO made the most 911 calls, right from here. But when the clinic was open, 90% of the 911 calls came in on days no students were here. It's hard to get funded if you don't add any new services, just reduce the ones the city has to respond to. You're invisible."

They are canny about finding resources and partners. For example, Israel said, "We were asked by Detroit city health services to address the Hepatitis A epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control helped us get a refrigerator certified to store the medications."

Last year Troy Athens High School chose Detroit Street Care as the beneficiary of its annual charity drive and came up with a stunning \$148,000 donation—but even that was a one-time windfall. According to Carpenter, the NSO is trying to come up with more stable funding through community grants and partnerships.

Taking on Opioid Addiction

The biggest issue the Street Care team is struggling with right now is the opioid addiction epidemic that is sweeping the country.

"It can be anyone," said Bryce. "We all hear about it and know it's a problem, but we like to think of it as being at one remove. What do you do when somebody overdoses in your space? It affects everyone. This is a change that's happened across the country."

The team is developing a program to disseminate NARCAN® kits and train community members in how to use them.

NARCAN® (naloxone) is used for the complete or partial reversal of overdose. Its effects begin within 2-5 minutes after the medication is administered. Anyone can purchase NARCAN® Nasal Spray directly from a pharmacist, without a doctor's prescription. Injectable varieties and multiple-dose kits require a bit of medical training to administer.



Bonnie Arbittier @ Flickr

The drug has proved to be something of a silver bullet, with a high success rate. The catch is, time is of the essence; also, multiple doses may be required. But, given its proven ability to save lives, "There's no excuse for not having access or not knowing how to use it," said Bryce.

Earlier this year, a woman collapsed by the door just as a street team was headed out to a soup kitchen. One of the students started rescue breathing and Carpenter administered NARCAN®. "One dose didn't work but the second one did. This happens quite a lot," said Israel.

In another case, said Carpenter, “A guy was sleeping in the corner of the men’s section where there are some cots for sick people. The desk came over and said somebody’s out. We gave him NARCAN® and he woke up.” After that, the team put a phone number in the street-run kits and “NARCAN® available” signs in the bathrooms.



Dean Carpenter is a nurse practitioner who ran the Tumauni Center clinic as a staff of one before 2012, when the first student-led program came on board.

They started a training program for community members who want to learn how to use the kits, and joined them for the training to see what kinds of issues came up. “That was valuable,” said Israel.

“It’s an incredible program,” said Bryce. “It’s awesome because it comes from the students. Allison and Jaclyn will pass it on to the next group. It’s just the beginning.”

Their first priority was to get more kits. Using the Troy Athens money, they funded the initial inventory themselves, and also reached out to Families Against Narcotics and other partners. They now have some kits for front desk supplies and a few more they have been dispensing to street partners.

Carpenter said they are “pretty picky” about who gets the treatment kits: “We gave one to a guy who was off drugs but had just lost an addict friend. We gave him the training and a kit.”

They are beginning to connect with other organizations that are tackling the same issues. Jennens and Israel have met with staff at Covenant Health (an organization that works with street sex

workers), Families Against Narcotics, Hope Not Handcuffs (which provides an addiction rehab program), and other groups. They are also working with the state police.

A New Area of Research and Practice

Street medicine is fast becoming a new area of medical research and practice, and Jennens and Israel are excited to be on the frontline. “We went to an international street medicine symposium in the Netherlands,” said Jennens. “We learned all sorts of stuff. Some groups even have a treatment bus. They’re doing safe needle exchange, recovery day houses... Having regular activities and a place to be, they show better results.”

At the Tumauni Center, new partners are coming on board. NSO is building relationships with the universities. The NARCAN® program is growing. Street care is now available as a fourth-year elective at MSU-COM. “Nobody else does that,” said Carpenter.

Still, none of this solves the pervasive problems of poverty and injustice in the world, the results of which the Detroit Street Care team confront daily, with remarkable courage and resourcefulness. “We know we can’t fix their lives,” said

Jennens. “Our goal is to provide access to the healthcare they need, and treatment for their ongoing issues, so that they can have hope for the future.” 🌱

ALLISON JENNENS

President, Detroit Street Care
College of Osteopathic Medicine

JACLYN ISRAEL

Communications Coordinator, Detroit Street Care
College of Osteopathic Medicine

DEAN CARPENTER

Family Nurse Practitioner
Neighborhood Services Organization

RICHARD BRYCE

Faculty Advisor, Detroit Street Care
Assistant Professor, College of Osteopathic Medicine
and Wayne State University
Chief Medical Officer, Community Health and Social Services, Detroit

MSU–Detroit Impact Team

The MSU–Detroit Impact Team is a university-wide, cross-unit representative group that serves in an advisory capacity to the Office of the Provost. Led by Sonya Gunnings-Moton, Senior Advisor to the Provost, the Team has the following objectives, specifically related to University activity, partnerships, resource investments, and engagement in the City of Detroit:

- Promote cross-university dialogue and awareness of Detroit engagement.
- Identify opportunities for effective utilization and coordination of resources.
- Facilitate broad scale impact of efforts.
- Establish coordination of multiple university activities and initiatives.
- Determine future university strategic efforts that meet identified needs and shared agenda.

Seeking to learn more about the full range of work being undertaken by MSU faculty, staff, and students in Detroit, the Team conducted a survey in early 2017. That November, the Team convened a round-table discussion called “MSU–Detroit Dialogue” to share its survey findings and provide a space for robust campus-based conversation around questions, such as: How do we connect in Detroit? How do we tell the value of our Detroit-based projects? How can we share tools and resources to build up areas of common interest in Detroit? In January, 2019, the Team brought together over 100 Detroit and MSU thought leaders for a community-based conversation at the historic Detroit Athletic Club to elicit input on what opportunities and challenges the City and University might collaborate to address.

The Team seeks to create a network of faculty and staff whose work has impact in the City of Detroit. They invite projects to be added to their network—via the MSU–Detroit Impact Team website—in the following areas:

- Educational access and equity
- Arts and culture
- Health and wellness
- Community/public affairs and economic development
- Environmental quality
- Family and youth development
- Science, energy, and technology
- Urban food distribution

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.msudetroitimpact.com



Courtesy of University Communications

“ The MSU–Detroit Impact Team is focused on creating a strategic synergy among all university stakeholders engaged in Detroit efforts. Through comprehensive and collective efforts with our Detroit partners, we strive to build upon what we have done for the past 100 years...We work side by side to realize the tremendous possibilities that exist both in the City of Detroit and on the campus of Michigan State University.

SONYA GUNNINGS-MOTON

Senior Advisor to the Provost
Associate Dean, Support Services and Engagement
College of Education

Detroit High School Students AND **WORLD CLASS OPERA**

By Amy Byle

“I didn’t think I would get that kind of feeling,” said Mark Rucker, world-renowned baritone and professor of voice in MSU’s College of Music. Although Rucker has had a celebrated career performing on the world stage, those words describe the love he now has for watching students develop into musicians in their own right. It’s not a surprise. His own life was changed by a dedicated music teacher.

Growing up and attending school in Southside Chicago, singing opera was not on his radar. Playing football was. But a vocal arts teacher at Chicago’s Kenwood Academy, Dr. Lena McLin, whom Rucker describes as a “miraculous individual,” heard him humming along to the Carpenters one day, and, in his words, “blackmailed” him into joining choir. And in 2004, when he made his Metropolitan Opera debut, she was in the front row.



Courtesy of Mark Rucker

Mark Rucker performs as the High Priest in Saint-Saëns’s *Samson and Delilah*.

After 34 years of traveling and performing on stages all over the world, Mark Rucker and his wife Sadie—also a professional musician—came to MSU in 2016, where Mark accepted a position as a professor of voice and Sadie became the vocal arts outreach coordinator for the College of Music. Together, they run the Vocal Arts Initiative, an outreach program started by College of Music dean James Forger, that gives vocal arts graduate students the opportunity to perform

for and interact with music students in several Michigan high schools each semester, including in Detroit.

The highlight of the outreach program is a cabaret-style performance. It begins with a 45-minute vocal performance by the graduate students, with selections from opera, musical theatre, and spirituals. The last song is, “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ the Boat,” from Guys and Dolls, in which the high school students have the opportunity to sing along with the college students. “What usually happens at first is they’re very shy in responding to this,” said Sadie. “And then Mark will come down, and get them riled up and say, ‘I can’t hear you!’ And then they’ll get on their feet and they’ll sing. So it’s really fun!”

At the beginning of each semester, Sadie helps the graduate students make their music selections, based on their vocal ranges and preferences, and puts together a

high caliber program with a variety of styles that will challenge both the graduate students and the high school students. This includes opera selections sung in their original languages. “She doesn’t play down to them,” said Mark Rucker. “It’s amazing how much the kids like the opera. Her goal is to feed them music that they might not ever hear.”

It truly is a team effort. While the graduate students are performing, Sadie is accompanying and Mark is directing the scenes. “Mark is brilliant about it,” said Sadie. “Because he’s the singer and actor, he directs the clips and the scenes, which is beneficial not only for the audience, but also for the singers. You really get kind of a mini class in acting.”

The performance section is followed by a 15-minute time for questions and answers. “There’s a give and take between the singers and the students, which is really very good,” said Sadie. “The kids ask all kinds of interesting questions. Some are deeper than others and some are silly. But it’s kind of fun that they feel engaged.”



Rucker works with a voice student at the Detroit School of Arts.

In October 2016, only about a month after arriving at MSU, the Ruckers, along with four graduate students, were already performing their first cabaret, using the MSU Community Music School in Detroit (CMS-Detroit) as their venue. Participants of all ages attended this initial event, including parents, teachers, and other community members, as well as students from the Community Music School Gospel Choir and the Detroit School of Arts vocal arts program.

Jill Woodward, director of the CMS-Detroit, was

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

Detroit High School AND WORLD CLASS OPERA

Both photos courtesy of Community Music School - Detroit



Left: MSU graduate students (l to r) Brian Major, Jenna Washburn, Jonathan Walker, and Laura Broschow perform in the Vocal Arts Cabaret at the MSU Community Music School-Detroit. Right: MSU College of Music Dean James Forger with Sadie Rucker and Community Music School-Detroit Director Jill Woodward.

instrumental in making arrangements for that first performance. “Anytime we can take advantage of the resources of the College of Music, we’ll bend over backwards,” said Woodward. “So we put out the word to all of our families, saying this is a really special opportunity for you to come and hear some amazing voices, but also talk to these graduate students about careers in music, and what’s required, and how does a person get there? How can you dream big and pursue your dream? All of that was very exciting!”

Connections, Conversations, and Dedication

Woodward has been professionally invested in the City of Detroit for many years, and the cabaret impressed her. “It was really an amazing event,” she said. “I spent 15 years at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and got to hear a lot of amazing voices over my years there, and I can tell you that the quality of the voices that Professor Rucker brought here were every bit as astounding. It was the kind of event that sends a shiver up your spine.”

That first cabaret performance at CMS-Detroit enabled the Ruckers to make wonderful connections with music teachers in Detroit, including Cheryl Valentine, vocal arts director at the Detroit School of Arts. After the CMS-Detroit cabaret performance, Valentine, along with former arts director for Detroit Public Schools, Willie McAllister, began to work with the Ruckers on plans to host the cabaret at the Detroit School of Arts, which they did in March 2018, with teachers and students from Cass Technical High School and Martin Luther King High School also in attendance.

Valentine says her students really enjoy interacting with the college students. “One thing they talk about is the friendliness of the folks coming to perform and being able to talk and to network with them without having to go through the diva kind of thing,” she said. “They enjoy just being able to sit down and have a conversation with them, and finding out how they got where they’re going and what they need to do to prepare for that.”

For the MSU graduate students, the feeling is mutual. Brian Major, baritone, has been part of the cabaret since 2016. He enjoys seeing

how the program can open up opportunities for the kids. “Many of the students have not been exposed to classical singing or music, and if they have, not at the level that it’s presented in the cabaret,” said Major. “Although some of the music is in foreign languages, it’s still relatable and touches the audiences to the core. Knowing that through our program we have impacted so many lives for the better is the true essence of what this program means.”

As a long-time music teacher, Valentine often sees this impact first-hand. “I like to see the kids expand themselves, to see them bloom into what they can be in music; and not just in music, but in life, period. Seeing the change, the metamorphosis occur, is what gets me going,” she said.

She believes programs like the cabaret are part of this change. “Because the kids live in a box, and they need to see that there’s light outside of the box,” she said. “And the only way to see that light is somebody bringing it to you, and saying, ‘OK, these are the things you can do as well.’ And I think the biggest part of the cabaret is the fact that at the end, the kids get a chance to sing with them. That lets them know they can also do what they see on stage. We love it! When they come, the kids are like sponges. They’re just pulling all kinds of stuff out of it.”

In a follow-up survey, one of her students, Alaska, summed it up, “I honestly liked all of the musical selections because the tone and the beauty just spoke to me!”

Watching the MSU students interacting with this upcoming generation of high school students gives Mark Rucker tremendous satisfaction. “I get more of a charge, now, in teaching than I do in singing,” he said. “When I go with these guys to see them perform in the outreach concerts, I have the advantage of sitting back and watching the high school students. And when I see a student pipe up, that’s exciting to me,” he said. “I think, if nothing else—if these kids never sing another note in their lives—they’ll be fans. And since the arts world is losing people in droves, we need that.”

The Ruckers can’t say enough about the dedicated music teachers in Detroit and around the state who nurture this growth day after day.

“We have been so impressed by all the teachers that we have met in these schools. They are so dedicated and appreciative,” said Sadie. “And they know how important music is to their students. It gives them focus; it gives them hope; it gives them reason to be in school. Which, I think is lost, many times, in the discussions about education. It’s not just reading, writing, and arithmetic. You have to take care of the soul; you have to take care of the whole emotional side of a human being.”

And Detroit has quickly earned a special place in their hearts. “Detroit, for all of its difficulties, has some extraordinary things going

on there, artistically and otherwise,” said Sadie. “That’s why if there’s any way to assist, to be a part of what they’re trying to do, we will gladly do it. We have a little thing going on and we hope that it reaches people in a meaningful way.”

MARK RUCKER

Professor of Voice, College of Music

SADIE RUCKER

Pianist and Vocal Arts Outreach Program Coordinator, College of Music

MSU Community Music School–Detroit

The MSU Community Music School–Detroit (CMS-D) provides high-quality music education and music therapy services. Classes are offered for babies through seniors. Through sequential music study, CMS-D builds 21st century life skills in urban youth and fills a unique niche in the local music education landscape. Lessons are offered at subsidized prices and financial aid is available to those in need. Instruments are loaned at no cost to registered students through CMS-D’s “Lonely Instruments in Need of Kids” program.

Several stellar programs unique to the CMS-Detroit include:

Aspiring Musicians Program (AMP) and Camp

For ages 9-17, AMP offers beginning, intermediate, and advanced weekly instrumental and voice group lessons, as well as a free weekly theory class. Also offered: AMP Camp and Groove-in-a-Week Camp.

Spartan Youth Jazz Program

The Spartan Youth Jazz Orchestra for middle school youth and Spartan Youth Jazz for high school youth offer challenging, top-notch instruction and performance opportunities for young jazz enthusiasts.

Verses Project: Exploring Literacy through Lyrics and Song

For ages 10-16, this free program offers a literacy-based approach to songwriting, composing, performing, mixing, and recording. Culminates in a professional recording and listening party.



Courtesy of University Communications

“ Music is a central part of Detroit’s cultural identity. When Detroiters travel the world, they are inevitably asked about the city’s musical culture and its famous musicians. Continuity of this tradition requires investment in the next generation. We are nurturing some incredible young talent at the Community Music School–Detroit. It’s a joyous mission.

JILL WOODWARD

Director, MSU Community Music School–Detroit

POINT OF PRIDE!

The CMS-D Big Band, rehearsing together only once a week, won the Essentially Ellington Regional High School Band Competition the last two years, competing against 16 schools from Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana!

From Student to Community Partner

By Carla Hills

As the lead executive for an organization that champions the commerce-driven and economic prosperity of the Black community, Ken Harris signs his correspondence “Entrepreneurially Yours.”

The Detroit native is charged with cultivating an entrepreneurial movement that aims to bring wholesale institutional and systems change for all people of African descent and their communities in the U.S., the Pan-African diaspora, and around the globe.

The responsibilities that come with his position include a heavy blend of history, legacy, and vision. Harris is aware of the expectations. But, he has been meeting challenges his entire life—as an athlete, businessman, elected official, and scholar.

Trailblazer

Growing up on the west side of Detroit, in the Russell Woods area, Harris excelled in sports. He was offered a scholarship to play basketball at Clark Atlanta University (CAU),

Harris went to work for the City of Southfield, serving as the first African American chief of staff in the Mayor’s office. After leaving that position, he founded the International Detroit Black Expo, an economic empowerment agent for African American businesses in Michigan that has continued to grow to more than 1,000 Black exhibitor business members across the country and internationally, and more than 300,000 consumers a year.

He obtained an educational specialist degree in educational leadership and policy studies from Wayne State University while working at the Michigan Minority Business Development Council (MMBDC) as its executive vice president of business development and strategic initiatives. It was during that time that Harris was elected to the Detroit Charter Commission in a city-wide election.

He wanted to participate in a process that impacts the way Detroit city government interacts with entrepreneurs, the private sector, nonprofits, and neighborhood organizations. When asked what he learned from the experience, he said, “Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy.”

(continued on page 16)

(Left to right) Shenai Jackson, Wayne State University; Forrest “Sam” Carter, Michigan State University; James D. Smith, Grand Valley State University; and, Ken L. Harris, National Business League.

“Success always leaves footprints.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

an Historically Black College/University, where he also found time to serve as student government president and president of Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology at CAU. He completed an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master’s degree in counseling psychology and returned to Michigan.



From Mentor to University Partner

On a sunny Saturday in early June, four people met in a TechTown Detroit conference room to address the needs of Black and minority-owned business owners, entrepreneurs and innovators.

The meeting was the result of collaborative efforts by Ken L. Harris, president and CEO of the National Business League (NBL), and Forrest “Sam” Carter, associate professor in the Broad College of Business. They were there to present an action plan to expand NBL local leagues for collegiate and early career entrepreneurs.

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Joining them was Shenai Jackson, representing the Wayne State University Office of Economic Development, and Dr. James D. Smith, a school consultant for the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Charter Schools Office who is responsible for connecting GVSU with community partners in the Detroit region.

Each of the attendees had connections to Michigan State University. Harris, Jackson, and Smith are alumni. Carter joined MSU in 1978 and has been a faculty member for 41 years.

During his career, Carter has focused on marketing research, macro-marketing, and marketing’s role in economic development, especially as it relates to women and minorities. Carter’s engaged research emphasizes corporate and community environments that are conducive to innovation and entrepreneurial startups.

He has developed professional roots in the Detroit community as the owner of a market research firm in the city, as co-researcher of a five-year initiative at MSU to provide an integrative development tool for at-risk communities, and for a three-year initiative to improve the entrepreneurial skills of small healthcare providers within the Detroit Empowerment Zone.

Having built a vast network of associates in the private sector as well as the academic arena, Carter is well-positioned to connect

(continued on page 17)



(continued from page 14)

From Student to Community Partner

What he hadn't yet learned how to do was slow down. Shortly after his term began, and while still working at the MMBDC, Harris decided he wanted a Ph.D.

Not an Ordinary Doctoral Degree

It was important to Harris to intertwine the professional knowledge that he built early in his career when he enrolled in MSU's highly regarded African American and African Studies program to pursue his doctorate. He wanted to include business, entrepreneurship, and economic perspectives to add dimension to his doctoral studies.

"Dr. Rita Kiki Edozie was the program director at that time, and she was instrumental in helping me put together an interdisciplinary curriculum experience that was a dual degree with African studies, business, and entrepreneurship. I wasn't a traditional student, but she had this amazing ability to link students, faculty, staff, and community in a field of study that has a tremendous impact in the Black community," said Harris.

"Dr. Edozie helped me integrate economics into my program studies. She connected me to Dr. Forrest S. (Sam) Carter at the Broad College of Business, and he ended up serving as my advisor and chairing my dissertation committee.

"When Dr. Carter agreed to participate, I applied and was accepted into the Broad College of Business. He had to set up a curriculum that met MSU doctoral guidelines, since I was the first to blend the two disciplines. He was also excited about setting up a pipeline for future students who wanted something similar to what I wanted. I'm grateful because he really accepted the challenge of working with me, along with looking forward to help future students.

"Everything started to align, but I had to break serious barriers. What did a Ph.D. in African and African American Studies look like with a business and economic background?



Ken L. Harris is the president and CEO of the National Business League, the nation's oldest voice for Black businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators.

"I had people on my committee that had blazed their own trail in multiple disciplines, and I've been grateful for their support. In addition to Rita Kiki Edozie and Sam Carter, I had Lisa Cook (MSU professor of economics and international relations), Ernest Betts (MSU assistant dean for multicultural studies), and Juliet Walker (professor, Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin). I benefited from their backgrounds and the things they had done."

When Harris talks about his MSU education, he emphasizes the reasons that he selected "this program" with "this university."

"Partnerships and multi-disciplinary research are essential to community work. The land-grant history, and the university's commitment to diversity, economic inclusion, and equity, is essential to the future. I was looking for a way to put my research experience and doctoral studies to good use, and do more to bridge the gap between entrepreneurship and the community," said Harris. "Not only is MSU serious about community, as noted in their leading study abroad initiatives, but the university puts its money where its mouth is by investing in urban areas, such as their Detroit Center in the heart of the city."

Getting Down to Business

The National Negro Business League was founded in 1900 because Booker T. Washington believed that economic power contributed to progress for Blacks and their communities. He emphasized education, entrepreneurship, and networking, which are components that still resonate today with Harris.

The NNBL was reincorporated in 1966 and renamed the National Business League (NBL). In 2017, the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce merged with the NBL and announced Harris as the League's 12th president.

The NBL's chief focus is the economic empowerment of Black communities. With the merger, NBL has access to 2.9 million Black-owned businesses across the U.S. through 365 local leagues.

"It provides the Black economic agenda with a national platform, along with 100-plus years of history and global foundation," said Harris.

"I See Opportunity"

Detroit's history, along with national and international economic waves of change, have brought a range of entrepreneurial opportunities. People of African descent have often felt these impacts in the extreme.

Growing up, Harris saw lots of firsts that came out of Detroit. "I saw Black success and Black excellence, and it gave me a different lens and a different confidence. There was a Black middle class that thrived because the automotive industry and suppliers hired local. Entire neighborhoods were built with Black-owned businesses and customers. We owned every single aspect of products, goods, and services necessary for the community. In a way, they had to because it was pre-desegregation," he said.

Today, Harris is in charge of an organization that believes empowering an

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 15)

From Mentor to University Partner

others together. He has also taught scores of students about marketing and entrepreneurship, including Harris and Jackson.

In 2013 he created the HEROES Project: Helping Entrepreneurs Revitalize Our Economy and Society. The primary goal was to strengthen the ability of Black and African American entrepreneurs in urban communities so that they could thrive and grow. He collaborated with Harris, who at the time was the president and chief executive officer of the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce (MBCC). One of the outcomes was the MSU Collegiate Chapter of the MBCC, the first in the U.S. Shenai Jackson was one of three founding students who worked with both Carter and Harris, subsequently serving as the organization's president.

At the time, Carter said, "Entrepreneurs can infuse new ideas and energy into their ventures by working with young people, and students learn that it is possible for them to be successful. And that may be a lesson that isn't necessarily learned anywhere but in a collaborative university-community exchange of knowledge."

It is now six years later, and they are working together again. This time, Carter, Harris, and their community partners want to develop networks, mentoring opportunities, and student startup efforts for the National Business League, aligning with its acquisition and redesign by the MBCC in 2017. There is an even greater need to refresh the goals that MBCC supported for their members, such as advocacy, access to capital, tools, resources, programs, technical assistance and training, and best practices.

"One of the questions I ask in my research is whether or not the economy is supporting minorities, and what more can be done to encourage Black entrepreneurs and business owners," said Carter. "We need to cultivate the emerging generation of professionals and encourage them not only to focus on their education, but also to become more aware of a myriad of entrepreneurial opportunities."

It is commonly acknowledged that any business owner can encounter difficulties obtaining financial capital or gaining market access. According to Carter, the financial challenges can be even greater when the business is minority-owned, or one that is operating in an urban or distressed region. To address those issues, NBL members gain access to an organization with 15,000 current members across the 50 states; the goal is to provide comprehensive programmatic activities that provide access to resources, encourage collaborations, and offer networking opportunities.



In light of that information, why reach out to a younger population?

"Technology has opened another frontier for business startups and innovators," said Harris. "We have young people who have a great idea, start it up, and are running a business before they are out of high school or college."

Shenai Jackson oversees an investment initiative named the 10,000 Small Businesses Program offered by Goldman Sachs to help entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunity. Its aim is to provide greater access to education, capital, and business support services. The company has implemented the program across the country, and Jackson is responsible for the Detroit regional operation via Wayne State University.

In addition to his GVSU consulting work, Smith serves on the board of directors of the 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit, and is an advisor to the Detroit Board Leadership Program, a Detroit Chamber of Commerce initiative. He says his passion for student mentoring is what drives him, and he helps Detroit high school students develop and execute strategies for sustainable personal and professional success before, during, and after college.

All four are in agreement that young people play a vital role in the future of Black entrepreneurs and innovators. Community economic development, talent acquisition and training, and corporate involvement and support will be at the forefront of the issues they carry forward for their communities.

No matter how profitable a business has been in the past, and regardless of how exciting and unique it is to current consumers, the four attendees in that Saturday meeting know that a landscape can change.

"We want to provide the knowledge, tools, and practical applications that are needed to operate in a competitive and global market," Harris said, referring to members at the National Business League.

But the landscape can also change in positive ways, as Carter is experiencing after so long in a teaching and mentoring position. His former students are launching their careers, and Carter continues to be available as a sounding board and information broker. He also finds himself now collaborating with those former students as community partners, such as Harris and Jackson.

"If you do it right, it's what is supposed to happen. This new project that we are working on keeps us going in that same upward momentum," said Carter. 🍀

FORREST S. "SAM" CARTER

Associate Professor, Department of Marketing
Faculty Director, Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship
Broad College of Business

(continued from page 16)

From Student to Community Partner

intergenerational economic shift towards wealth building will revolutionize the marketplace. He and other members of the NBL are aware of the growing technology-dependent way of doing things, especially as it pertains to doing business.

“So much is changing, and I want to make sure our members have the resources they need to be competitive or innovative. The internet has opened so many new ways of doing business, from reaching customers to locating products and services. And then there’s that whole thing about what they say about your business. With social media, businesses have experienced wild successes and monumental failures. So it’s reality that we have to figure out how to operate those tools,” Harris explained.

“I always say the revolution will not be televised, it will be digitized,” he says, smiling. “That’s because we have to do things differently, and participate in a different way than in the past.”

One of the first things Harris did as the NBL president was lower the dues to encourage people to join. He wanted to increase membership and introduce members to all of the opportunities available to them.

Picking up the leadership mantle has caused Harris to work and collaborate with a far-reaching network of supporters. The core tenets of the League are named in Seven Principles to Prosperity, including holistic entrepreneurship, access to commerce opportunities, membership and certification development, community reinvestment and inclusion, development of political policy and advocacy, resource deployment and technical assistance, and talent placement and acquisition.

It means that they support business owners and innovators in multiple ways with an ambitious calendar of programs, events, and networking opportunities.

“I believe we still have not reached the apex of economic and entrepreneurial development that is essential to our communities revitalizing themselves and building sustainability,” Harris said.

Working with Michigan State University

It was natural for Harris to bring Michigan State University into his network.

“I’m looking to bring together corporate leaders with Black entrepreneurs and communities so we can maximize our strengths and build relationships that provide mutual understanding and mutual benefits. Who can best help me with that? MSU is a leader for marginalized, disadvantaged communities where minorities reside. So naturally, I picked up the phone and contacted Dr. Carter, someone who has so much experience with the corporate and business world, and can bring that academic perspective to what needs to be done. I’d already seen what he could do when he mentored me for my Ph.D.,” said Harris.

Sam Carter sits on the National Business League’s Center of Economic Inclusion and National Hub Advisory Committee.

“I’m constantly researching how to better America and our economic situation—how to better prepare a diverse, inclusive, and equitable economy,” said Harris. “Dr. Carter has extensive experience interacting with everything from Fortune 500 companies to small minority-owned businesses. So we work together to address our Seven Principles to Prosperity. That includes access to private and public sectors by educating members and offering resources and information that increase Black business owners’ ability to compete.

“Sam has also been a strong ally to provide NBL members with the tools, best practices, resources, and programs to enhance their growth experiences. We do that through technical assistance and training,” said Harris.

The Doors Are Always Open

“We are at an integral point right now, where one of the major topics of discussion is economic inclusion and equity. In a city like Detroit—or Atlanta, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, or Cape Town, South Africa—it allows the National Business League to cast a national platform. By 2045 the U.S.

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL BUSINESS LEAGUE...

- There are **2.9 million** African American businesses in the U.S.
- **975,000** employees work in Black or African American-owned businesses.
- Total receipts of black business approach **\$150 billion** per year.
- African Americans have the largest percentage of firms owned by women at **38 percent** and their growth rate is 300 percent higher than the national rate.

will be majority Black/Brown. America will become a beacon for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

“MSU can help bring economic inclusion and equity, because diversity does not always equal inclusion or equity. They have a history of working with all cultures, all races, all genders, both domestic and abroad. The doors are always open. I’m proud of my education and I’m grateful for those who helped with that education. It’s a natural to reach out to MSU to collaborate and partner with me now as I work toward my next goal. And that next goal is to show that there are tremendous rewards to Black entrepreneurship and Black economic empowerment,” Harris said.

“I am in the community, doing the work. At the same time, I’m a scholar. We engage in the real work that needs to happen, and I was taught that we apply our research so that it’s not sitting on a desk collecting dust. That is the type of engagement that inspires. I think—I hope—I’m an example of what MSU wanted to produce,” said Harris. 🌱

KENNETH L. HARRIS
President/CEO
National Business League
Washington, DC



MSU Detroit Center

Located in the heart of midtown Detroit, the MSU Detroit Center is a hub for an array of programs, activities, and special events that facilitate outreach and engagement in southeastern Michigan. Housed in the 22,000-square-foot 1912 Albert Kahn building, the Center is home to several MSU offices and programs, some of which have been highlighted throughout this issue.

University Outreach and Engagement

Through the Detroit Center, the Office of University Outreach and Engagement fosters collaborations with community organizations including Focus:HOPE; Hope Village; Shiffman Medical Library @ WSU (a National Library of Medicine Outreach Library); the National Park Service; and others.

Community Music School-Detroit (CMS-D)

The CMS-D provides a wide variety of high-quality music education and therapy services for musicians of all ages and abilities. CMS-D builds 21st century life skills in urban youth and fills a unique niche in the local music education landscape. Lessons are offered at subsidized prices and financial aid is available to those in need.

College of Education

In 2010, the College of Education re-affirmed its long-standing commitment to improving educational outcomes in Detroit by establishing a local office in the MSU Detroit Center. The building includes classroom space for MSU teaching interns and for a range of education outreach activities,

including the Urban Immersion Fellowship Program and professional development activities for teachers in the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

MSU Museum @ the Detroit Center

This collaboration brings rotating collections and featured exhibitions to the MSU Detroit Center. Both the MSU Museum and Detroit Center seek to engage university and public audiences by developing learning, facilitating understanding, and inspiring discovery through programming and special events.

Admissions

The Office of Admissions reaches out to potential and newly-admitted MSU students in Detroit through various resources and activities, including Spartan Clubs, Financial Aid Workshops, College Onsite Days, and admissions counselor school visits.

Additionally, the offices of **University Advancement** and **Government Relations** develop and foster relationships that ensure that funding and policy initiatives in the Detroit area represent and fulfill community and university priorities.

Learning From the Dead





The Human Postmortem Microbiome Database

By Linda Chapel Jackson

If you watch NCIS, you probably already know: Forensic entomology—at least the medico-legal aspect of it—deals with evidence gathered by studying the insects that appear at the scene of a crime. In death investigation it is the study of things such as which insects appear, in what order, and their location on the body. This can be helpful in determining the postmortem interval (time elapsed since the decedent died) and location of a death in question.

Forensic ecology widens the scope of study to include microbes and other small creatures that invade a body after death.

Eric Benbow and Jennifer Pechal are forensic ecologists in MSU's Department of Entomology. Benbow's specialization is insect-microbial community ecology and Pechal's is decomposition ecology.

Forensic entomology is a well-established field; less is known about forensic ecology. In fact, Benbow and Pechal are pioneers in this area. "I've been doing this work for over a decade now," said Pechal. "That's what I did my PhD on, how insects and microbes interact on decomposing bodies." Separately and together, the two have produced a number of journal articles over the past few years.

Their goal for this research has been to discover applications for their findings about the postmortem microbiome (the distinct microbial community that forms in response to a shared physical climate, i.e., a corpse), both human and non-human, in the same way that insect activity can reveal important information to a death investigator.

But the work didn't really take off until 2014, when they met Carl Schmidt at the annual American Association of Forensic Sciences conference. Schmidt is the chief medical examiner for Wayne County, Michigan, and a faculty member with the University of Michigan School of Medicine. After Pechal presented a workshop on the postmortem microbiome, Schmidt approached her about the feasibility of using this information as part of actual death investigation. At that time it had not yet been used outside of the research context.

As a medical examiner Schmidt had the facilities for collecting biological samples, as well as a large specimen base. Benbow and Pechal had done the homework on methodology and data analysis. It was immediately obvious that a collaboration would benefit both parties.



Paul Phipps

Top: A few of the many insects that play a role in decomposition. Above: A postmortem microbiome sampling kit. Facing page: Jennifer Pechal processes microbiome kits.

At the same time, they were approached by microbiologist Heather Jordan of Mississippi State University. Jordan was one of the first researchers to ask the question of whether anyone had used microbes in determining time of death.

"I was not familiar with the forensics field very much, so in going into the background of postmortem interval and insects for utility in this, I asked if there had been any previous utilities of microbes for determining postmortem interval or anything else that would be useful for forensic science," said Jordan.

"I remember Eric saying, 'We are talking to a medical examiner here who has some really ground-breaking ideas for large-scale research—we have access to some amazing sample sets'—really, the ideas just sort of came together, of what became the grant. It's an interesting field and I joined the team just as it was becoming a hot topic. People were beginning to appreciate the microbiome for implications of health and the ability of diagnoses beyond disease states. I was intrigued by this, and still am."

The grant was a three-year (2015-2017) award for \$886,408 from the National Institute of Justice, "Postmortem Changes and Translocation of Bacterial Community Structure and Function for Use in Criminal Investigations."

(continued on page 22)

(continued from page 21)

Learning From the Dead: The Human Postmortem Microbiome Database



Paul Phipps

Above: Eric Benbow displays sampling kits—some awaiting analysis, some already processed—which are carefully stored in the lab's freezer. Right: Heather Jordan works in her lab.

Now with a platform for large-scale research and a grant to support it, the team has begun to build their human postmortem microbiome (HPMM) database,¹ something akin to a postmortem version of the long-running National Institutes of Health's Human Microbiome Project² to catalog the microbiome of living humans and learn more about its role in human health and disease.

Feeding the Database

The data collection and processing starts at Schmidt's office in Wayne County, with swabbing for bio-samples from several sites on each cadaver that is part of the study. According to Pechal, any one location can contain different microbiomes that are not shared even with other areas of the body. Schmidt and his staff then package and label the samples according to specifications provided by Benbow and Pechal, and deliver them in person to East Lansing.

Pechal oversees the sequencing of the samples, a process that results in a summary of the genetic structure of each microbe, making it

available for further analysis and, it is hoped, discoveries important to the ecological, forensic, and medical sciences.

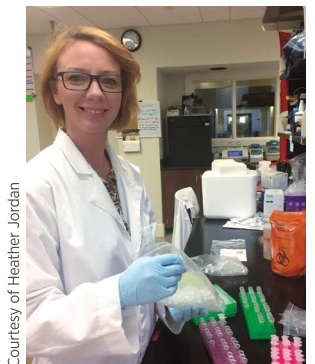
This information is then added to the HPMM database, which currently represents more than 2,300 death investigation cases, with microbiomes characterized from about 10 percent thus far. Samples collected from new cases are added weekly.

There were procedural issues to be worked out. As Schmidt observed, "I had 20 years of experience with research in a medical examiner setting, so I knew what was possible and what wasn't. The first step was thinking about how could we incorporate this into our routine work flow. One of the impediments to doing research in a forensic setting is that you develop efficiencies over time. Those efficiencies are easily broken if you try to add an extra step here or there—which is often what you need to do if you're trying to ask a research question. It interrupts your work flow. So I had to figure out how to incorporate swabbing into a work flow such that it would not interfere with the efficiencies that we have developed over the years to do our casework. And we are a large medical examiner's office, so we get a lot of cases."

The group is currently on a campaign to get more medical examiners on board. Benbow said, "Once we got the work flow going in Carl's office and the data started to come in, we realized a couple of things we needed. We needed more locations both internationally and in the U.S. The Europeans were most receptive to that at first. Colleagues from Austria, France, and Italy agreed to accept our swabs, so we shipped some swabs to them and they processed a number of cases and shipped back some swabs and we processed them. So it's grown from something that was pretty serendipitous to more of a global thing."

Unforeseen Advantages

Collecting samples from medical examiners has had some unforeseen advantages. Schmidt noted that "our population is not self-selecting in the way that many research projects have to deal with. The typical research subject who volunteers...They tend to belong to a particular demographic. They are educated, they have money, they're not representative of the general population. Whereas the reason you end up in a place like mine is because life took a turn for the worse and you couldn't do anything about it. It just happens. So we have a broad range, from infants all the way up to very elderly individuals, and it provides an opportunity to understand the microbiome in a way that you don't have in any other setting."



Courtesy of Heather Jordan

Antibiotic resistance is one area of interest that has turned up. One of Jordan's students at Mississippi State, Zachary Burcham, recently did some work evaluating antibiotic resistant genes from samples

¹ See <https://hpmmdatabase.wixsite.com/hpmmdatabase/>

² See <https://www.hmpdacc.org/hmp/overview/>

taken during a routine autopsy. Benbow said, “Basically we can now identify whether or not and what diversity of antibiotic resistant genes are circulating in the human population. And that’s valuable.”

Schmidt added, “There are antibiotic resistant genes out there, in people who have never received the antibiotic that might promote the expression for that particular gene. Which is actually pretty scary, if you think about it.”

Key Findings

One of the team’s most valuable findings is that the microbiome doesn’t change much for the first 48 hours postmortem. This is the reason that autopsy samples can be evaluated for things like antibiotic resistance the same as if they came from living samples. Unlike other measures that are currently used to estimate time of death, this timing appears to be independent of circumstances like whether the body is situated in a hot, cold, dry, or wet place.

“This means that for two days we have a snapshot of what your microbiome was at the moment you were still living,” said Schmidt. “And if you can harness that and glean information that is not discoverable in any other way, it would be diagnostically useful. We come across a whole lot of people of whom we know nothing about their past medical history. One of them is a microbiome profile that is consistently appearing in diabetics (we think) or heart disease; we’re not yet sure which it is. In the absence of any other medical information we could do a microbiome profile and be able to say with some certainty that you were a diabetic before you died, that maybe some of the pathological changes that we’re seeing are due to diabetes.”

Pechal noted that in the living microbiome studies that have been performed, different areas on the body (“we’ve got about nine different areas that we’re sampling from right now”) have different microbial communities: “But even after 48 hours we still see those very distinct microbial signatures. They persist even after death, which again highlights the usefulness of these bacteria for different questions that may arise, either medical-history-wise or forensically.

“Technologies continue to improve,” she said, “so our methods that we’re using right now are great for these times. But we may be able to increase our accuracy for the postmortem interval or perhaps circumstances of death if we continue to use better sequencing tools, better statistical analyses, better modeling approaches. It’s a constantly moving process.”

And, from working with the international communities, she added, “We are seeing some interesting trends as to overall country differences based on the microbiome. We’re still parsing those out right now, but hopefully we’ll have a publication submitted in the next month or so.”

Schmidt said, “That would have huge forensic significance. Say you found somebody in Detroit who was actually killed in Flint. It would be cool to be able to say oh, he’s originally from Flint, or he was in Flint long enough for his microbiome to become a Flint microbiome.”

But Pechal cautioned, “Body area is the biggest factor still. Regardless of where your death location is, your body sites are still going to be much different from each other.”

The Linchpin

Thanks to Benbow, Pechal, Jordan, Schmidt, and their colleagues, the language of science has a new term: necrobiome, the full community of organisms associated with a decaying body.³ The study of the interactions within that community is only a few years old, but is already yielding interesting and useful results.

So far as Benbow knows, this perspective is unique to their research team. “A medical examiner, a microbiologist, a decomposition ecologist and entomologist, and basically a community ecologist have come together. That’s the linchpin here,” he said. “And that’s what a microbiome is, it’s a community of organisms that you have to be able to properly sample for those communities. You have to properly be able to get them sequenced, and interpret the data, and then interpret the forensic or the medical significance of that community of organisms and how they assemble or disassemble in different ways.”



Carl Schmidt, Wayne County medical examiner, picks up microbiome kits from Benbow’s lab.

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Department of Entomology and Department of Osteopathic Medical Specialties
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Associate Professor, Department of Pathology
University of Michigan

HEATHER R. JORDAN

Assistant Professor
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Mississippi State University

³ Benbow, M. E., & Pechal, J. L. (2015). Microbial interactions of the necrobiome: Basic research and forensic applications. *Microbiologist*, 16(3), 26-29.



The SURF is MSU's answer to a longstanding need in the composites community. It's a one-of-a-kind facility that offers companies large and small the opportunity to work with industry-seasoned staff to demonstrate and validate their innovations in full-scale prototypes. We are fortunate to be located in Corktown within eyesight of Ford's future mobility campus.

RAYMOND G. BOEMAN

MSU-ORNL Professor of Composites Materials and Manufacturing, Michigan State University/
Oak Ridge National Lab
Director, Vehicles Technology Area and Scale-up Research Facility IACMI—The Composites Institute

Automotive Research Partnership in Detroit

With many years of research excellence in the field of composites materials, Michigan State University is a core partner of the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI), a consortium of experts from industry, academia, national laboratories, and government, working together to accelerate the development of technologies that support a growing advanced composites industry. In turn, IACMI is one of 14 institutes in the Manufacturing USA® network, an initiative focused on coordinating public and private investments in emerging advanced manufacturing technologies.

IACMI's six core partners are strategically located across the Midwest and Colorado.

Their Vehicles Technology Area is located in Michigan, where 70% of all U.S. automotive R&D occurs. Under the direction of Ray Boeman, MSU leads the light- and heavy-duty vehicle component of the Institute, focused on research and development that supports industry's need for lightweight structures composed of next-generation composites and multi-material assemblies that will boost fuel efficiency and job creation, while reducing production cost and the carbon footprint.

IACMI's Vehicles Technology Area consists of the Composite Materials and Structures Center (CMSC), the Composites Vehicle Research Center (CVRC), and the unique

Scale Up Research Facility (SURF) in the Corktown district of Detroit. MSU manages SURF and shares this formerly-abandoned-warehouse-turned-hi-tech-facility with LIFT (Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow), a sister Manufacturing USA® institute funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and committed to the development and deployment of advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies. Funding for SURF has been provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and Michigan Economic Development Corporation, with equipment and personnel support from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and several equipment manufacturers. Major industrial collaboration partners include BASF, Dow, DuPont, Ford, and Volkswagen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: iacmi.org/technology-areas/vehicles

Pipeline to Veterinary Medical Education

The MSU College of Veterinary Medicine's (CVM) Office of Diversity and Inclusion (recently renamed Office of Admissions, Student Life, and Inclusivity; ASI) makes it a top priority to attract, recruit, and retain students, interns, residents, faculty, and staff who are representative of the diverse population of our state, region, and country while weaving diversity throughout the curriculum. In its 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, ASI outlined goals, strategies, and tactics that guide its commitment to advancing a college culture that is inclusive of all of its members and representative of the broader society it serves.

Strategy: Feed the Pipeline

In 2017, ASI received a six-year, \$750,000 grant from the State of Michigan's Talent Investment Agency. The grant is part of the Martin Luther King, Jr.-César Chávez-Rosa Parks (KCP) Initiative. With this grant the ASI is giving an increasing number of students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to complete college degrees and experience career success as active participants in a knowledge-based global society and economy.

The KCP grant, focused on students in kindergarten through college, includes K-12 outreach in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) and career exploration in Metro Detroit and Greater Lansing. MSU undergraduate students receive support for mentoring, leadership development, supplemental instruction, and career exposure and exploration. The KCP grant also provides support for approximately 300 undergraduates and 700 youth annually through outreach efforts that aim to improve graduation rates and introduce students to shelter medicine and other career pathways in veterinary medicine.

"The CVM ASI is thankful for receiving this funding as it will help us to advance diversity and inclusion and expand the STEAM pipeline in veterinary medical education," said Hilda Mejia Abreu, Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Life, and Inclusivity.



Courtesy of University Communications

Hilda Mejia Abreu, Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Life, and Inclusivity, was the 2018 recipient of MSU's Excellence-in-Diversity Award in the "Emerging Progress" category.



UPCOMING EVENT

March 22-24, 2020

Next year the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine will host the Equity within the Classroom Conference. This annual conference is a collaborative effort between Michigan's King-Chavez-Parks Initiative and the state's public and independent colleges and universities. The Equity Conference provides a forum for faculty, administration, staff, and postsecondary education supporters to review current research findings; annual retention outcome data; best practice strategies; and specific KCP-developed retention strategies positively impacting equality of opportunity and degree achievement of KCP targeted students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: cvm.msu.edu/events/equity2020

When the Ordinary Becomes an Extraordinary Experience

The InnovateGov Summer Internship Program

By Carla Hills

Campaigns usually hold all the glamour and glory of the political experience. Casual observers can get the idea that it's all intrigue and drama and scheming strategy, like what is portrayed on television. Think *House of Cards* or *West Wing*.

Just as misleading are light-hearted shows like *Spin City* or *Parks and Rec*. Are these the people who are running our government and making important daily decisions? Is every bureaucracy that quirky, every elected official that muddled?

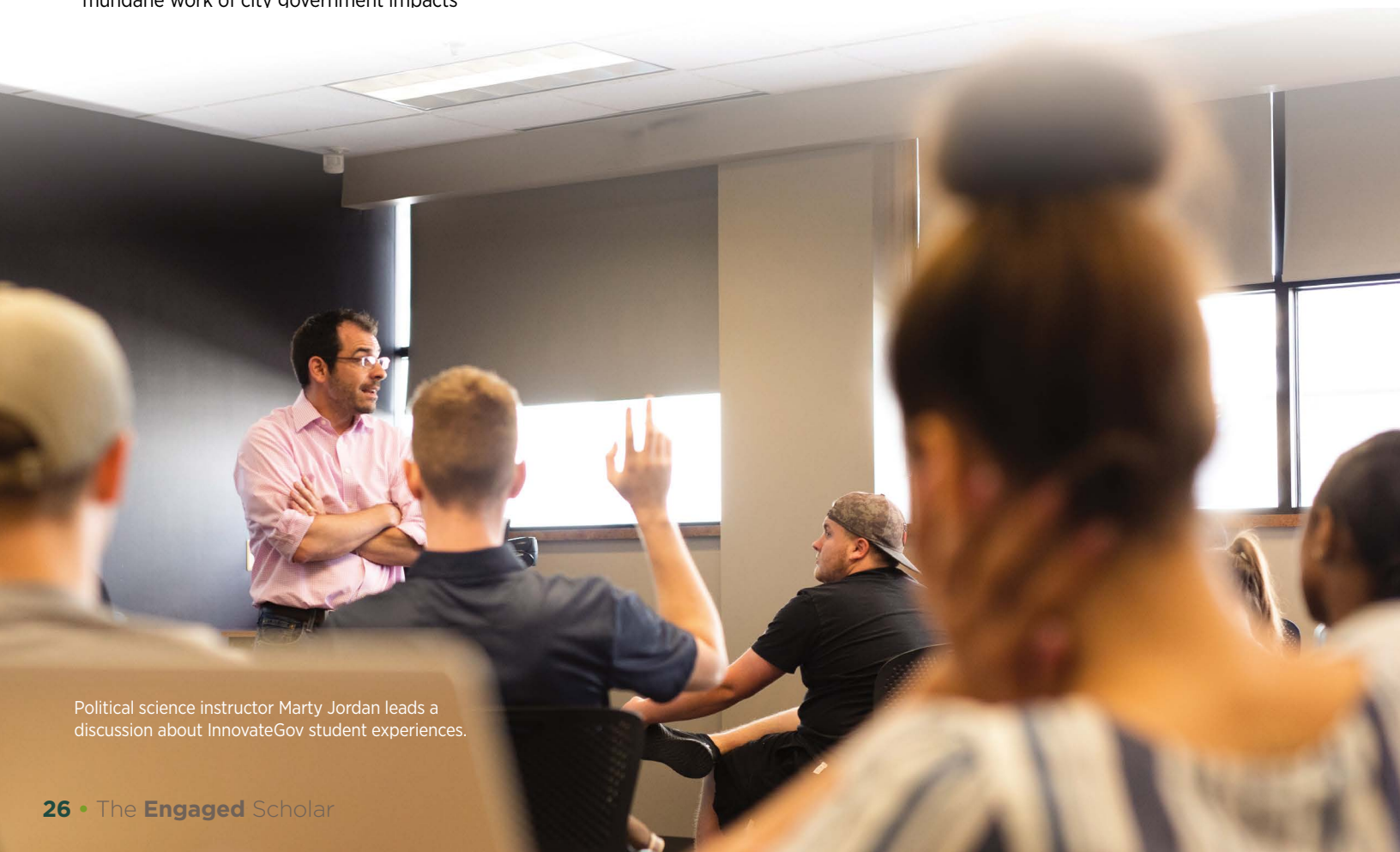
As Josh Sapotichne knows, the seemingly mundane work of city government impacts

nearly every aspect of people's lives. Government needs to run effectively to keep society functioning. Every elected office has laws and regulatory rules that outline the duties of the office, whether it's collecting taxes, managing schools, maintaining police and fire departments, or picking up trash.

Elected officials often try to change the rules to solve problems (fiscal or otherwise) more effectively or efficiently. That is when public policy impacts employees and citizens—sometimes for the better, and sometimes not. And when it's not working, it's anything but boring, or ordinary. Problem-solving at the government level requires skills such

as innovation, creativity, and willingness to affect systems change. Sapotichne leads a program that aims to develop a talent pool of the next generation of transformational civic leaders in Detroit and beyond.

Sapotichne is an associate professor of political science who teaches and researches American public policy and urban politics. His recent work explores federal and state government approaches to urban issues and the challenges of governing an American city in an increasingly complex federal system. In 2009 he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Washington, and became an assistant professor at Michigan State University.



Political science instructor Marty Jordan leads a discussion about InnovateGov student experiences.



Josh Sapotichne with the InnovateGov's 2019 cohort at the MSU Detroit Center during a weekly class meeting. "We want them to do it, feel it, and articulate what is going on. If it parallels with classroom discussion, can it help you relate to other people's experiences?" Sapotichne asked the students.

In 2015, Sapotichne published an MSU Extension white paper,¹ *Beyond State Takeovers: Reconsidering the Role of State Government in Local Financial Distress, with Important Lessons for Michigan and its Embattled Cities*. He and his co-authors (Erika Rosebrook, Eric A. Scorsone, Danielle Kaminski, Mary Doidge, and Traci Taylor) examined the crucial, but often overlooked, role of state governments in shaping the ways in which cities respond to financial difficulties. Among their findings: Michigan incubates financial stress among its local governments by imposing policies and legal structures that combine to make fiscal life hard for hundreds of local governments.

Detroit Mayor Michael Duggan was elected in November 2013, pledging economic development and financial recovery from the declared bankruptcy during summer 2013. His slogan, "Every neighborhood has a future," addressed his goal to include everyone in Detroit's turnaround.

It was an inspirational message for many, and Sapotichne took note.

The InnovateGov Program emerged from Sapotichne's belief that he and others at MSU could contribute toward building a thriving and equitable future for all Detroit residents. The message Detroit leadership

was sending encouraged involvement. Sapotichne and Scorsone outlined a program that provided students with the opportunity to learn about public sector innovation by doing real work on real problems. For these young people, it's a one-of-a-kind opportunity to address some of the most challenging problems in Michigan's largest city.

There is also an equity issue.

"Downtown Detroit is bursting with investment and energy, including new developments, pro sports stadiums, high-end retail, and hip coffee shops. Yet just blocks away, many neighborhoods continue to suffer the effects of a decades-long downward spiral. This duality—the tension between new ideas and the day-to-day experiences of residents—presents an immense challenge to the city's civic leadership," said Sapotichne.

According to recent research by Sapotichne and Sarah Reckhow, MSU political scientist and InnovateGov faculty co-leader in 2017 and 2018, Detroit has lost well over 50 percent of its government workforce in the last two decades.²

"They didn't need another white paper," said Sapotichne. "In 2014 there was a problem-solving attitude in City Hall that

was taking shape. If you start by plugging holes—and if you can plug enough—you can begin to fill the void. Our program could provide one of the best resources we have—bright, enthusiastic, and energetic students. When we talked about the InnovateGov idea with the deputy mayor, Carol O'Cleireacain, she loved it."

InnovateGov was launched in 2015 and set out to place talented and motivated MSU students in Detroit's civic institutions, while providing those college students with a rare opportunity to do impactful and equitable work on the city's most critical social programs. Sapotichne and the team firmly believe in placing and supporting *doers*.

The program, now in its fifth year, accepted 26 students for summer 2019. The recruitment and admissions process deprioritizes traditional quantitative metrics of academic performance in favor of passion, drive, and diversity of experience. Since 2015, more than half of InnovateGov students are students of color. One-third are MSU Detroiters.

(continued on page 28)

INNOVATEGOV PROGRAM 2019 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Build Institute
- CitizenDetroit
- City of Detroit Office of Chief Financial Officer
- City of Detroit Department of Innovation and Technology
- City of Detroit Health Department
- City of Detroit Planning and Development Department
- City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department
- Data Driven Detroit
- Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
- Detroit Future City
- Detroit Public Schools Community District
- Regional Transit Authority
- Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan

¹ Sapotichne, J., Rosebrook, E., Scorsone, E.A., Kaminski, D., Doidge, M., & Taylor, T. (2015, August 31). *Beyond state takeovers: Reconsidering the role of state government in local financial distress, with important lessons for Michigan and its embattled cities* (MSU Extension White Paper). East Lansing: Michigan State University. Retrieved from https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/beyond_state_takeovers.pdf

² Reckhow, S., Downey, D., & Sapotichne, J. (2019). Governing without government: Nonprofit governance in Detroit and Flint. *Urban Affairs Review*. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/1078087419847531>

(continued from page 27)

When the Ordinary Becomes an Extraordinary Experience



FIVE STUDENT PROJECTS FROM INNOVATEGOV'S 2019 COHORT

Clockwise from top left:

Samyuktha Iyer, senior majoring in economics

Interning with the Land Use and Sustainability Team of Detroit Future City to play a key role in supporting several project deliverables for the Land + Water Works Program (LWW). The objective is to promote education about, and installation of, green stormwater infrastructure.

Sydni Singler, junior

Interning with the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, assisting the lead team with communicating water main replacement projects with citizens, and analyzing, recording, and distributing water sampling to appropriate parties. Singler is passionate about community outreach and finding solutions to water shut-offs in homes to sustain livable housing for residents.

Jerry Grant, master's student in public policy

Interning with the Detroit Public Schools Community District to assist with a marketing and enrollment campaign, as well as the enrollment office's procedures and recruitment goals.

Ian McGuire, senior majoring in economics, with a focus on data analytics and sustainability

Working with Data Driven Detroit to explore the ethics of data-driven policymaking and problem-solving.

Jayson Law, sophomore majoring in political science and prelaw

Using a Skillman grant in his work with CitizenDetroit to write and design a citizen manual and teaching guide that engages youth and young adults in voter education and citizen participation.

Students stay in Wayne State University residence halls for 10 weeks during the summer, take a project-based research/writing course and internship course credits, which together is commensurate with a 35-hour workweek. Students live in Detroit, work in Detroit, and each Friday the group participates in a cultural or recreational event or service project around the city.

The 2019 program team, led by Sapotichne, includes Kesicia Dickinson, a teaching assistant and doctoral student, and Dr. Marty Jordan, a political science instructor. Together, the team works with the interns to promote an immersive experience in Detroit, creating opportunities for students to interact with policymakers, community organization leaders, Detroit residents, and cultural institutions. They encourage students to challenge their own expectations about Detroit, about city government, or about urban policy issues.

"It's about facing the more challenging public problems facing American cities—in this case, Detroit—and learning to evaluate the various solutions that are proposed to address those problems," said Dickinson.

"We guide and educate students on the etiquette and social norms expected while working in a professional office environment," said Jordan. "For some, it's their first exposure to that type of environment."

"For other students," added Sapotichne, "they may already have a tremendous amount of knowledge and wisdom from growing up in Detroit and struggling with some of the issues that residents experience."

In five years, more than 160 InnovateGov interns from 22 different majors have participated in high-leverage placements in more than 30 Detroit civic institutions, among them the Mayor's Office, Data Driven Detroit, Detroit Public School Community District, and Detroit Future City, to name a few. Students work on a range of areas critical to the quality of life of Detroiters, addressing issues residents face on a daily basis: water shut-offs, mobility challenges, property vacancies, small business development, and many more. They provide the capacity and human capital necessary to tackle high-impact projects that touch every neighborhood in the city.

"The work that our students engage in is vital, and it makes a real impact on the lives of Detroiters," said Sapotichne.

Their efforts are getting noticed. The Quicken Loans Community Fund granted a \$100,000 gift in April 2018 and last February, ITC Holdings Corporation, the largest independent electricity transmission company in the country, made a \$100,000 donation to support the InnovateGov program. This support served as a catalyst for Dykema Gossett PLLC, Dykema Gossett's Energy Fund, and Zausmer, August and Caldwell, PC, to also contribute to the InnovateGov program.

"This is a resource-intensive program," said Sapotichne. "Our lead sponsors help provide long-term sustainability." The Department of Political Science and College of Social Science cover the costs of student housing, parking, and scholarships. Average student scholarships are roughly equivalent to the income of a summer-long paid internship.

In the weekly class sessions, Sapotichne, Jordan, and Dickinson tackle tough topics like gentrification, equitable revitalization, land-use and vacant property challenges, and transportation and mobility.

One of their first tasks is to form a brief explanation of their internship project deliverable, known as the “elevator pitch.”

“Convey what the problem is and why you plan to spend your summer working on it. Back it up with information and data,” said Jordan.

“How does it impact community?” asked Dickinson.

Students submit weekly reflections on their experiences. The instructors ask the students to go deeper than a recitation of facts. How does the experience differ from initial perceptions? The reflections should discuss the false perceptions and moments of realization alongside the work that is being done.

Sapotichne asks students to reflect on moments where they were uncomfortable, overwhelmed, or emotional about the responsibilities they were asked to handle.

“The classic academic problem is over-explaining it,” said Sapotichne. “We want them to do it, feel it, and articulate

what is going on. If it parallels with classroom discussion, can it help you relate to other people’s experiences?”

One of the most important goals that Josh Sapotichne has for both the students and the organizations that work with the InnovateGov Program: “Ultimately, we want them leaving the organization a little better than what they found it,” said Sapotichne. 🌱

JOSHUA SAPOTICHNE

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Director, InnovateGov Program
Director, Master of Public Policy Program
College of Social Science

Collaborating to Serve Latino Youth

IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT

MSU’s Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI) generates, disseminates, and applies knowledge to serve the needs of Latino communities in the Midwest and across the nation.

The Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC), in Southwest Detroit, provides innovative and culturally-appropriate services and life-changing opportunities to youth and their families. Their programs for at-risk Latino youth offer mentoring, methods for coping with trauma, and pathways to education, leading to increased confidence and a better quality of life.

The DHDC and JSRI collaborate on community-based, participatory research projects and programs designed to facilitate positive development and quality of life for Latino youth in Detroit and Southeast Michigan. Recently, they collaborated on a study that looks at issues of meaning and purpose in the lives of Latino youth, who are often faced with challenging and even traumatic lived experiences.

Enhancing Purpose-in-Life Among At-Risk Latino Adolescents (EARL)

Project EARL aims to contribute to the work of DHDC by assessing the levels of purpose-in-life among a sample of DHDC program participants. It explores the utility of using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Career Report to help youth understand themselves better, begin to explore their occupational interests, and enhance their levels of purpose-in-life.

Project EARL serves as a pilot project to generate preliminary data for the development of a larger research proposal focused on enhancing purpose-in-life among at-risk Latino adolescents through use of the MBTI Career Report. The project utilizes questionnaires, pre/post-test administrations, MBTI interpretations, and data analysis. The results from EARL will be shared with DHDC staff to discuss their utility and possible utilization with the youth they serve through their respective programs.



“ DHDC does phenomenal work with at-risk youth, particularly in the areas of cultural identity and coping with trauma. Enhancing their purpose in life through career interests could motivate youth to continue their education in their occupation areas of interest.

RUBÉN MARTINEZ

Director, Julian Samora
Research Institute

Building Partnerships and Programs that Make a Difference

By Richard A. Wooten

In 2017, MSU Extension celebrated 100 years of programming and partnerships in Detroit and Wayne County. From the beginning MSUE has worked to help improve people's lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities. To that end, our local partners have been invaluable in helping us learn how to build stronger families, mentor youth to develop life skills, assist local entrepreneurs, and teach residents to grow food as a part of a healthy, sustainable community food system.

The MSU Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation



Courtesy of MSU Extension

Richard Wooten

The most exciting new venture that Extension is involved in, along with other units of the University, is the MSU Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation (DPFLI). This initiative, which creates a new MSU-DPFLI Center, is the result of a collaboration among multiple MSU units, several City of Detroit departments, numerous community-based organizations, and elected officials. More than three years in the making, the partnership started with a conversation between the former president of MSU and the current mayor of the City

of Detroit. The development process for the MSU-DPFLI Center was designed to engage area residents and community stakeholders in the planning of programs and activities based on the needs and expectations of the community. It involved several community meetings with potential stakeholders who provided input about desired programming and the initial design of the physical facility. While not all of the recommendations could be incorporated into the design because of financial constraints, some elements, such as a community space to be used by neighborhood nonprofits, did make their way into the initial phase. The goal is to open the facility this fall.

The Center creates a tremendous opportunity for faculty who are interested in urban agriculture, forestry, or food issues to conduct research in the city. To ensure that the community has an active role in the programming and research of this unique facility, a community advisory council was created to engage and support MSU as the full site plan is realized over the next five to ten years.

The Center will occupy the former Houghton Elementary School in Detroit's Riverdale neighborhood. Its director, Naim Edwards, is working to establish research projects with a focus on soil restoration, as well as activities that will engage local residents. When the MSU-DPFLI Center opens, Extension will provide ongoing educational programs for youth—gardening classes, nutrition, and social and emotional education—at the new location.

MSUE in Wayne County

MSU Extension reaches more than 20,000 Detroit residents and logs more than 60,000 program contacts in Wayne County each year. Many of these programs are low- to no-cost. Programs offered to the public include financial literacy and mortgage foreclosure counseling, Master Gardener training, and micro-business food counseling.

Extension also works with local community-based organizations to develop and start community gardens, train participants on issues involving food safety and preservation, and develop local food networks.

4-H programs help youth to develop much needed life skills to be successful in an ever changing world. They provide health, nutrition, and wellness workshops that teach participants how to make healthy food choices, how to be more physically active, and how to cope with the stresses of life through mindfulness and other stress reducing activities.

Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles

Extension offers two nutrition programs, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program. The two programs reached more than 25,000 participants in Wayne County in 2018. The delivery



Kenneth Weikal Landscape Architecture

Illustration of the proposed new MSU-DPFLI building.



Proposed site plan for the new MSU-DPFLI Center.

effort includes multiple nutrition curricula and the incorporation of physical activity as a part of healthy lifestyles. The programs target youth and adults, and occur with numerous partners throughout the City of Detroit and Wayne County. Extension staff engage teachers, community center staff, senior-center administrators, and other community-based representatives to provide educational curricula such as *Eat Healthy, Be Active*; *Eat Smart, Live Strong*; and *Healthy Food, Healthy Families*, along with others. The education is complemented with physical activity exercises and is conducted in up to eight one-hour sessions per program.

At the Detroit Service Learning Academy (DSL), Extension staff conducted *Fuel Up to Play 60*. This program developed an active kids' committee and worked with cafeteria staff to promote healthy eating and exercise throughout the school. Mann Elementary, Charles H. Wright Elementary, and Division Elementary also participated.

Efforts included a collaboration between the United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM) and Extension to upgrade the DSLA play area with design graphics that promote physical activity and the nutritional *My Plate*.

To further Extension's nutrition programming effort, an MSUE staff member serves on the Detroit Food Policy Council. The Council was established in 2009 by approval of the Detroit City Council and consists of 21 members working to address healthy food issues in the city.

Another partner in Detroit for nutrition education is the Michigan Women's Golf Association. Nutrition classes were added to golf instruction for youth in collaboration with United Way, which provided free lunches during the nutrition component of the classes.

(continued on page 32)

(continued from page 31)

Building Partnerships and Programs that Make a Difference

Social and Emotional Health

Social and emotional health programs are provided by Extension's Health and Nutrition professional staff and include such topics as mindfulness, anger management, and co-parenting and communication.

One parenting effort evolved from an identified local need from the Wayne County Third Circuit Court in the City of Detroit. MSU Extension provides co-parenting education and support to separated, divorced, and never-married parents going through break-up, parents struggling to parent across two homes, and/or those engaged in ongoing disputes regarding custody, parenting time, and parenting practices. As a result of Extension's partnership with the Court, a service agreement was executed in 2019 that funded a new program called *Together We Can*. This program incorporates early childhood and paternity education for single parents in Detroit and Wayne

County. The program is held at Focus: Hope, the MSU Detroit Center, Franklin Wright Settlement, and Eastern Market to accommodate program participants living in the city. The overall vision of this effort is to improve social and emotional outcomes for children by working with one of the region's most vulnerable populations.

Partnership development is critical to the success of Michigan State University and especially to the work that is done through Extension. These relationships sometimes take years to develop before the numerous conversations and meetings actually produce a mutually beneficial outcome. 🌱

RICHARD A. WOOTEN

District 11 Director
Wayne County Office
MSU Extension

Agricultural Research Center Comes to Detroit



Courtesy of MSU Extension

Michigan State University has its first urban agriculture research center in the works, the MSU Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation (DPFLI). Extension Specialist Naim Edwards is its director.

As an active member of Detroit's food system, Edwards provides vital connections between the Detroit urban agricultural community, neighborhood organizations, and MSU research opportunities. He has spent several years working in and advocating for the city's burgeoning urban agriculture community. He will coordinate programming and conduct

public outreach to address economic and nutrition challenges in urban communities, as well as forge community partnerships in and around the city.

Edwards will be joined by fellow Extension educators and researchers in Southeast Michigan to provide education, soil sampling and pollution cleanup, pest and crop disease management, forestry, innovative growing systems, and community food systems development.

NAIM EDWARDS

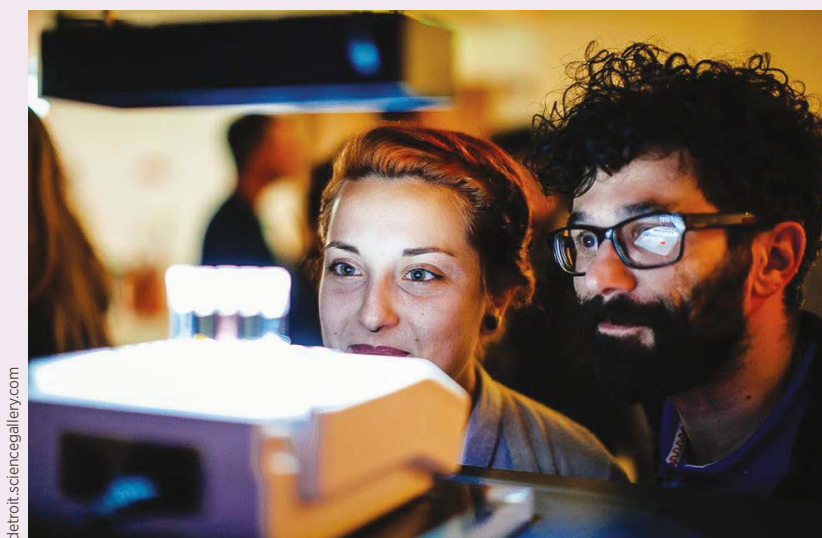
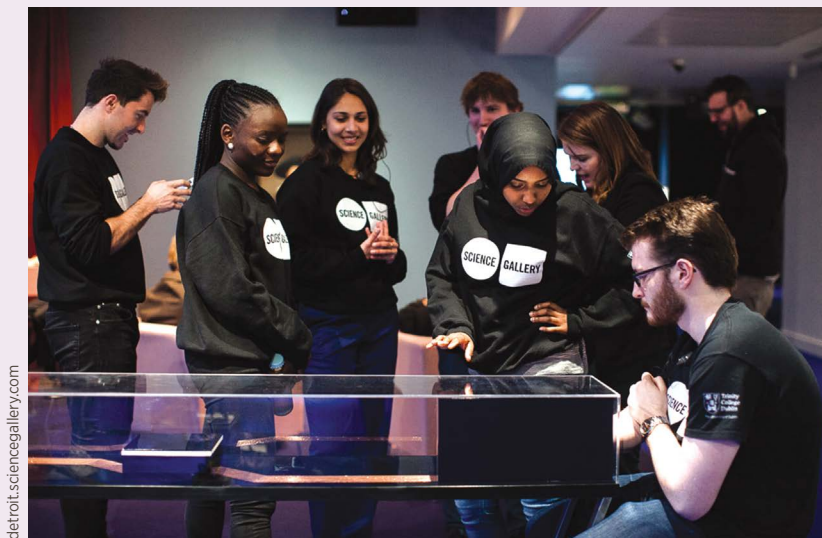
Director, MSU Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation

“We need to put time, energy, care, and love into this space, and create something that is beautiful. I want the DPFLI to be something people want to be a part of—something that challenges the paradigm of institutions engaging and serving marginalized communities. “Spartans work for the common good with uncommon will”: This new center will serve people who have been written off, bringing healing, mindfulness, joy, and innovation to places that were once written off.

NAIM EDWARDS

From *Partnerships and Peninsulas* Podcast, April 1, 2019
MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Science Gallery Detroit



Science Gallery is the world's only university network dedicated to public engagement through science and art. Founded by Trinity College Dublin in 2008, Science Gallery has since expanded to four continents and seven countries worldwide.

Michigan State University's Science Gallery Detroit is the first and only North American location of the global network. This summer, Science Gallery Detroit launched its sophomore exhibition, *DEPTH*, which explored humanity's connection to water. The free admission also included free general admission to the Michigan Science Center, located in Detroit's Midtown area.

Science Gallery Detroit aims to inspire young adults ages 15-25. Therefore, in place of traditional docents, Science Gallery "mediators," a team of young adults ages 18-25, guide visitors through brief storytelling experiences to infuse further curiosity and bring the exhibition to life.

"Science Gallery is bold, thoughtful, and engaged with an international community that helps to further link Detroit and Michigan to the entire world," said Jeff Grabill, Director, Science Gallery Detroit, and MSU Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning and Technology. "We're aiming to surprise, connect and participate with visitors through the blending of art, science, technology and conversation."

Recent exhibits

HUSTLE: A multimedia exhibition of interactive works and participatory experiences that examined the many definitions of survival and success.

DEPTH: Explored water's intense power—one that creates catastrophic storms and floods—while also showcasing the beauty and life it brings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
detroit.sciencegallery.com

info@detroit.sciencegallery.com
Twitter/Instagram/Facebook: @SciGalleryDet

Awards and Recognitions



Pearl Yee Wong

The **MSU Museum** staff presented talks about the exhibition “Finding Our Voices: Sister Survivors Speak” at the 2019 Smithsonian Affiliates National Conference in Washington, DC, in June. Among the presenters were Mark Auslander, Director, MSU Museum; Mary Worrall, Curator; Teresa Goforth, Exhibition Manager; Denice Blair, Education Manager; Chong-Anna Canfora, Director of Development; and UOE Graphic Designer Kelly Hansen, exhibition designer. This exhibition is co-curated by sister survivors and their allies, reflecting on the crisis of sexual violence centered on the MSU campus in recent years. Inspired by hundreds of teal bows and ribbons tied in early 2018 around campus trees as tributes to the survivors, the exhibition chronicles the continuing struggle by the survivors to call public attention to sexual violence and to promote dignity, healing, and positive transformation locally and globally.



A new award has been named in honor of **Hiram E. Fitzgerald**, University Distinguished Professor of psychology and former Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement. **The Hiram E. Fitzgerald Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award** recognizes an individual for exemplary contributions to the field of engaged scholarship. The award was named in his honor to recognize his sustained leadership in advancing both the scholarship and practice of engaged scholarship in higher education. The inaugural Hiram E. Fitzgerald Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award is being presented to **Amy Driscoll**, Consulting Scholar, Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, during the 2019 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Annual Conference.



Miles McNall, of UOE's Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship, and **Bengt Arnetz**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, received the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services' (ACCESS) Academic Partnership Award for MSU's commitment to community-based research and education. ACCESS is recognized nationally and internationally for its work on social justice and health equity with special focus on the health of Arab Americans and immigrants. MSU and ACCESS have a long-term relationship and ACCESS commonly serves as a community partner on federal grant applications.

Michigan State University has been named a foundational partner in the Advancing Research and its Impact on Society (ARIS) Center, made possible by a \$5.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The Center will support scientists' efforts to translate their research to the public, build researchers' capacity to engage with communities, create educational and professional development programs for PreK-12 students and educators, and develop a STEM workforce that represents the people of our country. Interim Associate Provost **Laurie Van Egeren** has been named to the ARIS Center's leadership team.

The Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement and **MSU Government Relations** have once again received the Voter Friendly Campus Designation in partnership with the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education association. The program requires campuses to engage their campus community and promote voter registration and voting as part of their institutional mission.



Robert Brown, Associate Director for the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development in Flint, received the 2019 Excellence in Diversity Award (EIDA) in the category “Lifetime Achievement” from the MSU Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Activities. EIDA is an award program that recognizes outstanding efforts of faculty, students, and staff at MSU who are committed to the principles of diversity and inclusion and who actively engage in activities that demonstrate a sustained commitment to these principles.



Laurie Van Egeren, Interim Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement, was named to the newly formed Commission on Economic and Community Engagement (CECE) of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. CECE is committed to the development of meaningful and sustainable partnerships, founded on the principles of quality engagement among universities, communities, government, industry, and philanthropies. Core activities center around professional development, leadership, and peer exchange; projects, research, and initiatives; and federal policy contributions and communication.



Vaughn Watson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Teacher Education, has been named to the inaugural cohort of the Midwest Region Campus Compact Engaged Scholars Initiative. Watson was selected from a highly competitive pool of candidates nominated by college and university presidents and chief academic officers in 12 states. He joins a prestigious group of scholars participating in an 18-month learning and leadership process designed to strengthen their scholarship, research, and impact.



Junior **Katarina Huss** (James Madison College, 2020) was named a Campus Compact 2019 Newman Civic Fellow. Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities committed to the public purposes, established the Newman Civic Fellowship to recognize and support community-committed students who create change and are public problem solvers. Huss has worked with resettlement and post-resettlement agency programs to assist refugees in adjusting to life in the U.S. by teaching English, connecting them with local community members, and accessing resources.

New Ventures



The Opioid Prevention and Education Network (OPEN-MSU), coordinated by MSU's Office of University Outreach and Engagement and funded by the National Corporation for Public Service, provides a platform for building partnerships and support for local organizations working to address opioid addiction and overdose. Full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members will be trained to work with nonprofit organizations across the state that serve as host sites for the OPEN-MSU initiative. Jessica Barnes-Najor of UOE's Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship leads the initiative, and will provide oversight to recruiting, onboarding, and training members, as well as coordinate grant reporting and management. For more information: vistaopen.msu.edu



The Julian Samora Research Institute has partnered with Lake Michigan College in South Haven to offer a **non-credit, bilingual, two-course sequence on farm management**. In September 2018, sixteen Latina/o farmers enrolled and began taking the first course, which focuses on planning, financial management, credit, and recordkeeping. The course sequence promotes the integration of Latina/o farmers into the nation's agricultural industry. **Marcelo Siles** and **Filiberto Villa Gomez** are the instructors.

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New Ventures

Campus Compact of the Midwest named MSU a strategic partner for the **Engaged Scholars Initiative** (ESI), a multi-state effort to address complex, challenging, and intractable societal issues. Michigan State University, University of Kansas, and University of Minnesota are strategic partners for the initiative. ESI will support a small cohort of engaged scholars who will advance co-created knowledge, critically engaged pedagogies, and collaborative action. Cohort members commit to ongoing participation from May 2019 to August 2020.

Through the **Youth-Driven Space in Southeast Michigan** project, a partnership with Neutral Zone, Ann Arbor's Teen Center, UOE is collaborating with six diverse youth-serving agencies in Southeast Michigan. The goal of the partnership is to document and enhance the dissemination of youth-driven practices in these communities so that teens can have authentic leadership roles and experiences before transitioning into adulthood. The project is funded by the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation. UOE's Heng-Chieh "Jamie" Wu is principal investigator.



The Andrew J. Mellon Foundation has awarded a grant of \$800,000 (over a 3-year period) to MSU and South Africa's Stellenbosch University. The grant will support the **Ubuntu Dialogues** initiative, which aims to build bridges among students, faculty, and heritage professionals in South Africa and the USA. The lead administrative unit for Stellenbosch is the university's Museum. Partners at MSU include the African Studies Center (lead unit), UOE, Department of History, MATRIX, African and African American Studies Department, and MSU Museum. **Kurt Dewhurst** of UOE's Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship is a PI on the grant.

The Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, in partnership with the Center for Community Engaged Learning, has launched the **MSU Network for Global Civic Engagement**. The Network will enable faculty, staff, students, and community partners to learn more about what each is doing in the area of global civic engagement and build upon this work in innovative and more effective ways.

MSU is one of three public universities that are joining forces with the City of Detroit to provide economic forecasting services and data to the city. The **City of Detroit University Economic Analysis Partnership** is a five-year agreement between Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University. It will be led by the Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics at the University of Michigan. The MSU effort will be led by the Extension Center for Local Government Finance and Policy. The universities will work with the Detroit Chief Financial Officer's forecasting and economic analysis unit to build a forecasting model for the city's tax revenues and develop local economic indicators, indices, and reports. The research team will present an economic forecast every year, utilizing public data from various sources.



UOE's **Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship** is partnering with investigators from the University of Utah, Oregon State University, the Pacific Science Center, Utah State University, and MSU Department of Advertising and Public Relations (**John Besley**, Ellis N. Brandt Professor) on a newly funded NSF Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) grant. The **STEM Ambassador Program** aims to develop strategies for scaling and sustaining training programs that engage "hard-to-reach" publics.

Changes at UOE

The Office of the Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement has reorganized its administrative structure. The new **Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship** will facilitate work in the following key areas: community-engaged research; faculty and professional development; partnership facilitation; and institutional research, policy, and recognition. OPES will also work collaboratively with the other UOE departments to enhance and support the community engagement efforts of faculty, staff, and students across the University.

The **Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement** celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. As the oldest such center in the country, the Center has led the way in community-engaged learning. In the fall of 2019, the Center will launch the next 50 years with a new name, the **Center for Community Engaged Learning**. The new name represents the mission of the center: to advance community-engaged learning at Michigan State University and prepare students for lifelong civic and social responsibility in an increasingly diverse and complex global society.

MSU's Outreach and Engagement Measurement Instrument (OEMI) gathers data about the outreach activities of MSU faculty and academic staff. The information is self-reported and participation in the annual survey is voluntary. Data for 2018 were collected between February and April 2019 and represent the 15th year of data collection; 461 faculty and academic staff responded to the survey. Since 2004, 4,374 distinct (non-duplicative) respondents have reported their outreach and engagement through the OEMI. For this snapshot, OEMI data are augmented with data collected by the MSU Center for Community Engaged Learning.

OEMI results for 2018 include the following:

\$9,572,602

Value of salary investment by MSU faculty and academic staff in addressing issues of public concern (data from those reporting outreach activities on the OEMI)

94.2%

Respondents whose outreach contributed to achieving Bolder by Design (BBD) imperatives:

- 71.6%** Enhanced the student experience
- 76.3%** Enriched community, economic, and family life
- 38.9%** Expanded international reach
- 55.6%** Increased research opportunities
- 51.8%** Strengthened stewardship
- 68.1%** Advanced our culture of high performance

312

Number of specific projects/activities reported

Of the respondents who described specific projects/activities:

- 81.8%** Reported working with external partners
- 70.1%** Reported having created intellectual property and scholarly outcomes
- 59.9%** Reported that their outreach work impacted their scholarly or teaching practices

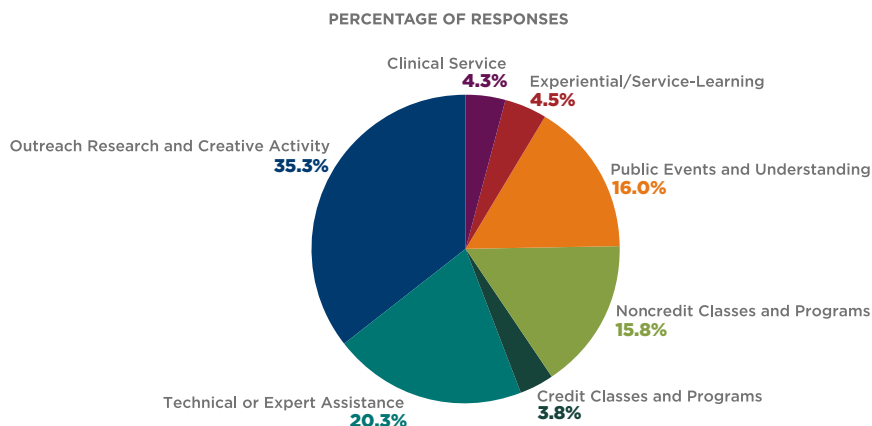
32,093

Number of student registrations for community-engaged learning and/or community service placements during the 2018-2019 academic year. Of those student registrations, **43%** (13,833) were for community-engaged learning placements as part of an academic course or program and **57%** (18,260) were for cocurricular community service.

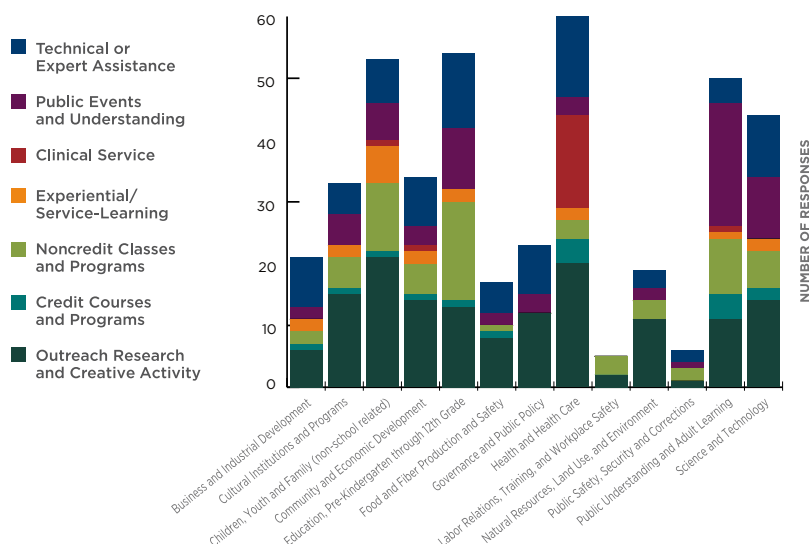
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University Outreach
and Engagement

Forms of Engagement Reported by MSU Faculty and Academic Staff in 2018

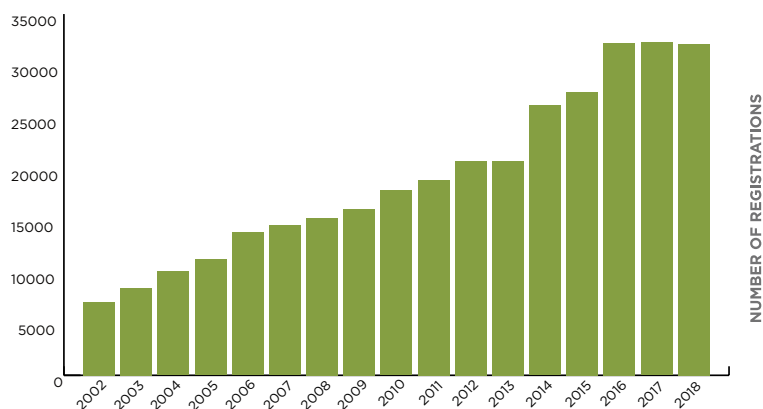


Forms of Outreach Cross-Tabulated with Societal Concerns for 2018



The number of "responses" is greater than the number of "respondents." Respondents were given the opportunity to describe their engagement activities for up to two areas of social concern; each description was counted as a separate response.

Number of Student Registrations for Community-Engaged Learning Received and Accommodated (2002-2018)*



* Data collected through the Community Engaged Learning Questionnaire.

2019 MSU Awards Honor Outstanding University-Community Collaborations

The annual Michigan State University Outreach and Engagement Awards Ceremony was held on February 20, 2019 at the Kellogg Center, with an audience that included award recipients and their families, community partners, deans, colleagues, and students.

The awards program was established by University Outreach and Engagement in 2005 with the Community Engagement Scholarship Award (CESA), formerly known as the Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award. A full list of past award recipients is available on the web at engage.msu.edu.

MSU COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD (CESA)

The CESA recognizes exemplary engaged scholarship with a community partner. One scholar and her/his partner(s) share a stipend of \$5,000.

MSU and INRB Against Konzo Disease: A Global Partnership to Protect African Children From Toxic Food

- Michael J. Boivin, College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale

More than a decade ago, MSU psychiatry professor Michael Boivin and his colleagues at the Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale (INRB) formed a partnership to eradicate konzo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Konzo disease, a sudden-onset permanent paralysis of the legs, results from eating cyanide in improperly prepared bitter cassava root, a staple food source for 600 million people worldwide. The cyanide damages nerves that control voluntary leg movement. Tragically, young women and children are most vulnerable.

The partnership has produced landmark scientific papers and presentations worldwide, and trains students and researchers from Africa and North America. It continues to expand neuroscience research capacity in DR Congo by building upon this multidisciplinary, cross-cultural, international framework.



DISTINGUISHED PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

The Distinguished Partnership Awards (DPAs) comprise University-wide recognitions for highly engaged and scholarly community-based work that positively impacts both the community and scholarship. Nominations for these awards are invited annually in the categories of Research, Creative Activities, Teaching, and Service. Each award is jointly conferred on a faculty recipient and her/his community partner(s), and comes with a shared stipend of \$1,500. The DPA recipients are also finalists for the CESA.

Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research

MSU and INRB Against Konzo Disease: A Global Partnership to Protect African Children From Toxic Food

- Michael J. Boivin, College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale

This partnership won MSU's 2019 Community Engagement Scholarship Award. See description above.

DISTINGUISHED PARTNERSHIP AWARDS



Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching

Community Engagement and Participatory Modeling of Urban Food Systems

- Laura Schmitt Olabisi, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- FoodPLUS Detroit

Beginning in 2014, Schmitt Olabisi and Renee Wallace of FoodPLUS Detroit established a community process for soliciting information on a proposed urban livestock ordinance in the city. Their vision was to improve understanding of food systems in Detroit, and community partners were key participants in all stages of the project.

It was a catalyst for a \$2 million grant for a four-year project that aims to use community-based participatory modeling to analyze the food system in Flint, inspire collaborative relationships, and gain a better understanding of urban food systems.



Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service

The Resilient Monroe Green Map Initiative

- Kelly Salchow MacArthur, College of Arts and Letters
- River Raisin Institute, Monroe, Michigan

The River Raisin Institute (RRI) of Monroe, Michigan, is a small nonprofit that works to improve environmental, social, and economic health and well-being locally and globally. MSU associate professor of graphic design Kelly Salchow MacArthur has focused her creative research on environmental issues for over a decade. In 2016, RRI and Salchow began a partnership to educate the Monroe community in green practices, sustainable resources, and environmental stewardship.

The result was the Resilient Monroe Green Map initiative. Utilizing local food accessibility data collected by the Monroe County Health Department, they developed an extensive system to introduce green mapping—the practice of locating and plotting green living, natural, and cultural resources in an area. In this case, they focused on fresh, local food resources. More than 2,000 community members have been reached through large, interactive community maps displayed at three local libraries.

2019 SPARTAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

A presidential recognition, this award celebrates MSU students' commitment to service-learning and community engagement and is given to students who volunteer 100 hours or more in one year. All of the student volunteers were recognized at MSU's Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner in January, and this year the Office of the Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement additionally honored the five students with the greatest number of volunteer hours recorded during the academic year. They are:

- Sujit Bajaj, College of Natural Science
- Lauren Marie Caramagno, College of Natural Science
- Malik Amir Lee Mix, Eli Broad College of Business
- Samantha Paige Perovski, College of Natural Science
- Brooklyn Taylor Rue, College of Arts and Letters



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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

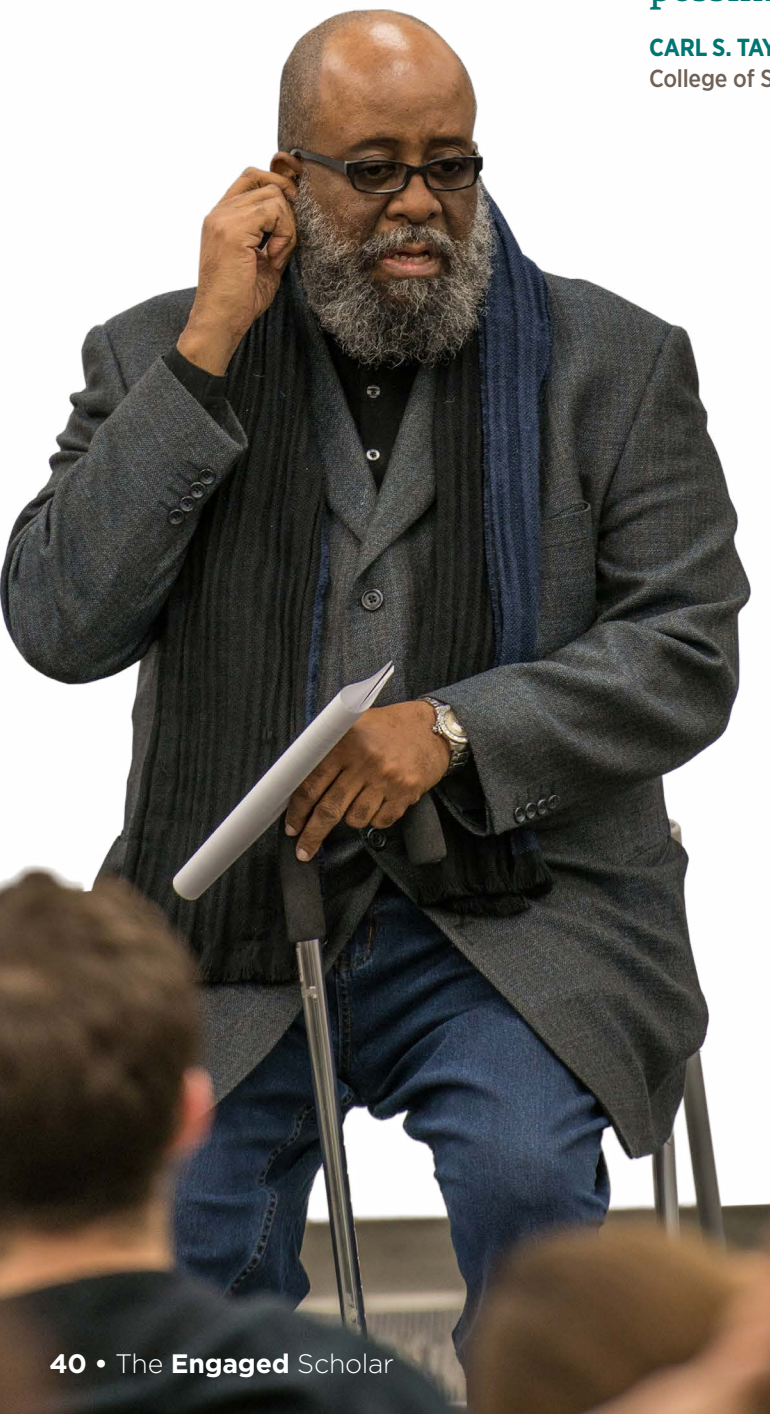
Community Engagement Scholarship Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes outstanding and sustained accomplishment in community-engaged scholarship through research, creative activity, teaching, and/or service. Given the special nature of this distinction, it is not an annual award, but is conferred on those occasions in which the individual's extraordinary accomplishments are sustained over the span of a career.

“ I’ve had enough experience with being pessimistic to know that is not the answer.

CARL S. TAYLOR

College of Social Science



Carl Taylor's extensive field research in Detroit and other hard-hit Michigan cities has earned him a national reputation as a leading expert on American youth culture, gangs, and violence. His multidisciplinary approach as an ethnographer, ecologist, and criminologist led him to become an advocate for investing in human capital, especially with regard to strengthening a community's relationship with its youth.

He spent thousands of his own dollars and six years living in an inner-Detroit neighborhood, following two violent street gangs. The result was a ground-breaking book, *Dangerous Society* (1989).¹ One unexpected finding of this research was the extent to which the young gangsters had become sophisticated entrepreneurs with corporate-style organizations in the drug business. A later book, *Girls, Gangs, Women and Drugs* (1993),² documented the rising numbers of young women who were getting involved with these activities. In 2013, "The Attraction of Gangs: How Can We Reduce It?" (co-authored with Pamela R. Smith) appeared in the joint National Institute of Justice/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publication, *Changing Course: Preventing Gang Membership*.³

Despite sometimes grim statistics, a central theme in Taylor's research, teaching, and advocacy is hope. He grew up in Detroit, witnessed the city's fall from prominence, and hopes to see it rise again, this time in a way that benefits all Detroiters.

Taylor is a University Outreach and Engagement University-Community Senior Fellow. He received the MSU College of Social Science Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award in 2015. He also received the Department of Sociology Excellence-in-Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2013, 2014, and 2017. Taylor has worked with such organizations as the Guggenheim Foundation, the C. S. Mott Foundation, the FBI Academy, and the Children's Defense Fund. He also served on the Michigan Juvenile Justice Committee for more than ten years and advises various projects concerning youth throughout America.

¹ Taylor, C. S. (1989). *Dangerous Society*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press.

² Taylor, C. S. (1993). *Girls, Gangs, Women and Drugs*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press.

³ Taylor, C. S., & Smith, P. R. (2013). The attraction of gangs: How can we reduce it? In T. R. Simon, N. M. Ritter, & R. R. Mahendra (Eds.), *Changing course: Preventing gang membership* (pp. 19-29). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

About University Outreach and Engagement

University Outreach and Engagement facilitates university-wide efforts to create an ecosystem of engagement by supporting the engaged activities of faculty, staff, and students; fostering public access to university expertise and resources; and advocating for exemplary engaged scholarship, nationally and internationally.

In all of its work, UOE emphasizes university-community partnerships that are collaborative, participatory, empowering, systemic, transformative, and anchored in scholarship. Contact University Outreach and Engagement to learn how you can become more active in the MSU engagement enterprise.

Center for Community and Economic Development

Located in central Lansing, CCED works to improve the quality of life for people in distressed Michigan communities through responsive engagement, strategic partnerships, and collaborative learning.

Center for Community Engaged Learning

In partnership with campus and community, CCEL advances community-engaged learning (CEL) at Michigan State University and prepares students for lifelong civic and social responsibility in an increasingly diverse and complex global society. Students may participate in either CEL opportunities that are course- or curriculum-connected or in volunteer/service opportunities beyond the classroom.

Communication and Information Technology

CIT provides public access to information about university-wide outreach initiatives through the Internet, as well as consulting and product development services for websites, databases, publications, graphic design, and event management.

Gifted and Talented Education

GATE promotes differentiated educational programs for students in grade school, middle school, and high school in order to provide educational experiences that benefit academically able students intellectually, cultivate social relationships, and encourage a global understanding of their world.

Julian Samora Research Institute

JSRI conducts research on social, economic, educational, and political issues of Latino communities.

MSU Detroit Center

The Center is home to College of Education programs and Detroit internship headquarters; Community Music School-Detroit classes, programs, and events; and offices for admissions, advancement, and government relations.

Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship

OPES facilitates work in key functional areas: community-engaged research; faculty and professional development; partnership facilitation; and institutional research, policy, and recognition.

Usability/Accessibility Research and Consulting

UARC conducts research and evaluates new interface technologies to ensure that they are useful, usable, accessible, and appealing to a broad audience.

Wharton Center for Performing Arts

In addition to serving as mid-Michigan's premier venue for performing arts, Wharton Center educational programs connect students to the performing arts by offering a wide range of programs suited to a variety of learner needs.

LAURIE A. VAN EGEREN

Interim Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

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and Engagement**

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East Lansing, MI 48824

2019-2020 CALENDAR • MSU OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference

October 8-9, 2019 | Denver, Colorado
engagementscholarship.org/conference

Imagining America 20th Anniversary National Gathering

October 18-20, 2019 | Albuquerque, New Mexico
imaginingamerica.org/national-gathering

International Association for Research on Service- Learning and Community Engagement Conference

October 23-25, 2019 | Albuquerque, New Mexico
researchslce.org/conferences

Julian Samora Research Institute 30th Anniversary Conference Celebration

October 31 – November 2, 2019 | East Lansing, Michigan
jsri.msu.edu/30years

World Usability Day

November 14, 2019 | East Lansing, Michigan
uarc.msu.edu/about/world-usability-day/world-usability-day-2019

Michigan Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference

November 18, 2019 | Ann Arbor, Michigan
michiganpcc.org

MSU Outreach and Engagement Awards Ceremony

February 19, 2020 | East Lansing, Michigan
engage.msu.edu/awards/distinguished-partnership-awards

C2UExpo 2020

May 12-14, 2020 | Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada
communityresearchcanada.ca/c2uexpo-2020

WATCH FOR...

Global Engagement Speaker Series

Dates TBD during spring semester 2020
gess.msu.edu

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

MSU Science Festival

Held annually in April
sciencefestival.msu.edu

National Alliance for Broader Impacts Summit

Held annually in April
broaderimpacts.net/summit-2019

Summer Solstice Jazz Festival

Held annually in June
eljazzfest.com

Summer Intensive on Community-Engaged Scholarship

Held annually in the summer
engage.msu.edu/summerintensive

Innovate Michigan! Summit

Held annually in early fall
ced.msu.edu/events/innovate-michigan-summit