Africana Studies

The Pamela Anise Tinsley Memorial Annual Scholarship was established to encourage and assist others to study African and African-American history and culture. This scholarship is named after Pamela A. Tinsley, the sixth of ten children, who was developmentally disabled and attended special education schools in Detroit. This scholarship, established by her sister Rita Dickerson, is an attempt to honor her life and to keep her name alive. Two $2500 scholarships are awarded annually to students majoring in Africana Studies or in History with a concentration on African History. This year’s recipients are Jason Rashaad and Markeysha Davis. Jason, a senior with a double major in Africana Studies and History, is also a strong advocate of civil rights and social justice, serving as president of the Wayne State chapter of the ACLU. Markeysha, also a senior, is majoring in Journalism and Africana Studies, and serves as president of the WSU chapter of the NAACP.

Kelli Morgan, the recipient of the Dudley Randall Endowed Scholarship, received her BA in Africana Studies from Wayne State University. A 2005 Wayne State University McNair Scholar, Kelli aspires to become a university professor and is currently applying for graduate school in African American Studies.

Dear CLAS Alumni and Friends:

We have experienced remarkable growth in the past few years because of the generosity of alumni and friends like you, and we thank you for your past support. Your annual gifts and membership dues reflect a continuing commitment to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and assist us in our mission to maintain an outstanding learning environment. The college is now 24 departments strong, with more than a dozen programs, centers, and institutes, supported by more than 400 faculty members.

Again, we thank you for your past support of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and hope that we can count on you again this year. Please feel free to contact us at 313.577.2515 for more information on ways to support your department.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Thomas, PhD
Dean and Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Anthropology

After retiring from the Anthropology Department in 2000, Dr. Barbara Aswad, an internationally-known cultural anthropologist who worked with Arabs in the Middle East and Arab-Americans in Michigan, established a special fund with a generous gift to support graduate student research in the Middle East and elsewhere. Since then, 17 students have traveled to Jerusalem, the United Arab Emirates, West Africa, Scotland, Latin America and other countries. Their work resulted in several PhDs and many articles and conference papers. Graduate students such as Heather Moillanen conducted research in Jerusalem in 2006; Eric Montgomery spent a year of dissertation field work in Benin, Togo, and Nigeria; and Lamees Sweis has done ethnographic research in Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. Barbara’s hope is that her gift will encourage other faculty, alumni, and friends of anthropology at Wayne State to support overseas research for young anthropologists breaking into the field.

Biological Sciences

The Nicolette Therese Keller Endowed Scholarship

The Nicolette Therese Keller Endowed Scholarship in Biological Sciences was established in loving memory of Nicolette Therese Keller, a bright student who died in 1991 at the age of nine from a brain tumor. Her last mentioned career aspiration was to study biology. The fund was established with a matching gift from the Ford Motor Company.

The scholarship is intended to encourage female students to seek a career in the biological sciences, and is established to recognize scholastic achievement, to encourage continued progress, and to provide assistance to those women in financing their education in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The 2006 recipient of the Nicolette Therese Keller Scholarship, Erin Brennan, said: “Receiving the Nicolette Keller Scholarship allowed me to work alongside professionals in the laboratory and gain valuable experience in academic research.”

Chemistry

Schaap Endowed Chair in Organic Chemistry

The most recent A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Endowed Chair in Organic Chemistry has been awarded to Dr. David Crich, a world-renowned organic chemist, whose previous post was as a Distinguished Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Illinois–Chicago. The appointment of Crich was closely watched by the chemical community and was regarded as quite a coup for the department.

Endowed chairs are a critical component of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They provide an environment for innovative research and allow students the opportunity to work with prominent scholars and experts in their field of study.

Prestigious chairs are essential to a great university and enable us to prosper in the intensely competitive environment of higher education. As we continue to increase our number of endowed chairs, top scholars elsewhere will be attracted by these opportunities and it will increase the pool of talent applying to join Wayne State University’s dynamic community.

Thanks to the generosity of the donors, the Schaap Endowed Chair includes a considerable start-up package, enabling the department to recruit world-class scholars such as Dr. Crich, as well as an endowment that will generate sizeable annual research funds.
The Classics, Greek and Latin department studies the achievements of ancient Greeks and Romans in literature, politics, language, philosophy, art, law, religion, sports, and technology. Among the faculty are award-winning and internationally renowned scholars who teach a wide range of subjects, including Greek mythology, and courses that focus on the original works of Homer, Virgil, and others. The department also offers a Modern Greek minor, and a study-abroad program enabling students to spend academic semesters or summers studying Modern Greek or the Classics in the finest Greek universities. The Greek-American community of greater Detroit proudly holds an annual Greek Independence Day Parade, which is organized by the Greek Independence Day Parade Committee, of which the university’s oldest Greek-American student organization, the Dionysians, is a founding member. Parade participants have included His Eminence Nicholas, Metropolitan of Detroit, along with other dignitaries, including an emissary from the Greek ambassador, legislators from the City of Detroit and surrounding communities, as well as from the State of Michigan, and judges and members of academia.

The Richard W. and Kristine Vogt Sbaschnig Endowed Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology was established with a sizable gift to recognize scholastic achievement, to encourage continued progress, and to provide assistance to students in financing their education in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (formerly Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology). Kristine Sbaschnig, a Lecturer in the department and the Director of its Speech and Language Center, has this to say of the scholarship that carries her name: “My husband, Richard, and I moved to Detroit in 1976, and immediately realized that Detroit has much to offer its citizens. Our philanthropy has been dedicated to the education of young people. As a 30 year employee of WSU, I recognized the excellence in teaching at the university, the quality of the students who are serious about their education, and the commitment of the university to the Southeastern Michigan community. Our scholarship gift seemed the ideal way to acknowledge these attributes.”

The Department of Computer Science receives funding from several sources, both corporate and private, that provide scholarships to computer science students. Among the named scholarships are the Stephen P. Heppler, John P. Stieber, and Herbert N. Weinigarten awards. Corporate scholarships are made possible by the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, the Ford Motor Company Fund, and the General Motors Foundation. The awards range from $500 to $2,000 and provide support for about two dozen students each year. Students apply for these scholarships at the start of the calendar year, with the awards announced at a recognition ceremony in late March. Mihaela Mandrea, a recipient of the DaimlerChrysler Scholarship who is now a DCX employee, says that, “Looking back, I consider the DaimlerChrysler scholarship as the starting point of my career.” There are many computer science students whose careers, academic and otherwise, have benefited from the generosity of the department’s donors.

“Looking back, I consider the DaimlerChrysler scholarship as the starting point of my career.”

– Mihaela Mandrea
Criminal Justice

Dr. Joe Rankin, chair of Criminal Justice, came to Wayne State in the fall of 2004 from Eastern Michigan University, and quickly oversaw two tenure-track hires that are helping to make the undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice one of the most popular in CLAS and at Wayne State as a whole.

One of these hires, Dr. Jennifer Wareham, is a criminologist with a PhD from the University of South Florida. "We are very fortunate to recruit her here," Rankin says. Wareham feels likewise. "I have been very impressed with the dedication and commitment the faculty has demonstrated toward improving our department," she says. The other recent hire, Dr. Irshad Altheimer, is a criminologist with an MA and PhD in Sociology from Washington State University. Altheimer, too, is as happy to be here as the department is to have him. "Wayne State provides an ideal environment for researching and teaching criminal justice issues," he says. "The urban setting is the perfect social laboratory for examining how our society responds to crime, and the diverse student body enables me to address such issues in classrooms that reflect our ever-changing society."

In addition to faculty hires, Rankin points out that the future success of the department is also dependent on generous donations that enrich both scholarships and academic programs in many ways. The pieces, Rankin feels, are now in place to make the department prominent on a national level.

The undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice is one of the most popular in CLAS and at Wayne State as a whole, with over 400 students enrolled.

Economics

The lab “is a key ingredient in the success of the graduate education we provide.”

The centerpiece facility in the Economics Department is a computer lab used by graduate students, and long-supported by the generosity of the Campini Foundation. Saying that he was “deeply touched by the consistency of the support and the faith that the foundation has had in our administration of the funding.” Economics Chair Li Way Lee last year proposed that the computer lab be named the “Campini Lab,” as a way of honoring the ongoing contributions that the department receives from the Campini Foundation.

The lab, Lee says, “is a key ingredient in the success of the graduate education we provide.” He notes that Wayne State’s graduate students in Economics are in high demand by research centers and other colleges, and that this would not be possible without the “excellent empirical skills” graduate students have “honed in the Campini Lab.”

English

The Helen L. DeRoy Chair

Established in 1989, the Helen L. DeRoy Chair was made possible by a significant endowment by the Trustees of the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation. Steven Shaviro, the Helen L. DeRoy Chair in English, earned his PhD from Yale University and came to Wayne State from the University of Washington. He cites, as reasons for his move to WSU, the English department’s digital literacy initiative, along with its strong commitment to film studies, literary theory, and new technology. The university’s urban mission, he says, also played a role in his coming to Detroit. Then there was the matter of temperament. “I like big cities — the activity, the outgoing attitudes of the people.”

The work undertaken by the fellowship recipient directly benefits the city of Detroit.

Geography and Urban Planning

Thanks to a significant gift from the Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation, the Department of Geography and Urban Planning is able to hire and maintain a nine-month graduate student assistant on a fellowship that includes tuition, benefits, and a small operational budget. The work undertaken by the fellowship recipient directly benefits the City of Detroit.

With this support, Urban Planning graduate student Angela Lazarean and Professor Gary Sands have been engaged in urban research and are preparing an evaluation of local economic development needs. Their findings will be provided to the state legislature as well as state and local economic development officials. Faculty and graduate students in the department are also researching the role of entertainment in downtown renewal, studying the health of Michigan’s cities, and investigating alternative poverty policy at a national level.
German and Slavic Studies

The Winter 2005 German and Slavic Studies Book Award recipients, including Concordia Awards

American people. The scholarship endowment established by the Concordia Singing Society Foundation carries on the original Society’s long cultural and philanthropic tradition. The endowment, established in Wayne State’s Department of German and Slavic Studies, annually provides scholarships enabling students to pursue their study of German language and culture in Germany.

Upon accepting the donation, German and Slavic Studies Department Chair Donald Haase said, “The pride and community spirit of the German-American community in Southeastern Michigan have always been remarkable.” He noted, too, that “cultural education and the formation of the individual through edifying cultural experiences find expression in this gift, which carries on the best of the German-American heritage.”

History

The Sterne-Lion Research Scholarships

Thanks to a significant donation, each year the History Department awards the Sterne-Lion Research Scholarships in History to support already-funded research projects by department majors. These funds are used to support students who wish to continue their research in the United States or abroad. These research awards are funded by the department and are allocated on a competitive basis.

Among the recipients of the Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship is Anna Dobosz, a student in the history of the seventeenth century in the city of Gdańsk, Poland, where different English and German acting troupes performed plays by William Shakespeare. Anna uncovered a rich archive on the theater and was able to spend a few weeks in Poland looking through state archives, which contain many original documents from performances held there in the seventeenth century. Anna’s advisor, History Professor Eric Ash, said that the money from the Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship “made it possible to continue the research in Poland and to use the archives there.” Without the generosity of external donors, opportunities for undergraduate research travel would be much reduced.

Interdisciplinary Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies Women’s Scholarship Fund was established in 1980 by faculty and staff members in the University Studies/Weekend College Program, now known as the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. The fund is used to support the study of German language and culture in Germany. The endowment, established in Wayne State’s Department of German and Slavic Studies, annually provides scholarships enabling students to pursue their study of German language and culture in Germany.

Upon accepting the donation, German and Slavic Studies Department Chair Donald Haase said, “The pride and community spirit of the German-American community in Southeastern Michigan have always been remarkable.” He noted, too, that “cultural education and the formation of the individual through edifying cultural experiences find expression in this gift, which carries on the best of the German-American heritage.”

Students of German language and culture at Wayne State University have excellent opportunities for study abroad thanks to a gift from the Concordia Singing Society Foundation. In June 1998, the Foundation made a donation of more than $215,000 to establish an endowment at Wayne State that funds scholarships for students to study in Germany and establish personal contacts with the German people. The Foundation was established in 1998 by members of the Concordia Singing Society, which was founded in 1865 by twelve German-American Civil War veterans who were members of a singing group at Detroit’s Social Athletic Club. Dedicated to German music and song, Concordia’s members strive to maintain the memory of their homeland, spread the language of their forefathers, and cultivate the aesthetic life of the German-American heritage.

Doris Pailen, now a proud graduate of IS, to earn a bachelor’s degree. Pailen graduated cum laude in 2004. “Going back to school as an adult with younger kids is intimidating,” she said. She attributes much of her success to the opportunities afforded by the Women’s Scholarship Fund. “For several semesters, I was a recipient of this IS scholarship, which required me to maintain a high GPA and a commitment and determination to excel with honors. It opened doors of opportunities for me to become involved in campus life and in community service during my undergraduate studies.”

In recognition of her “outstanding scholarship, service, and loyalty to Wayne State University,” Doris Pailen was among 12 students inducting into the prestigious David Mackenzie Honor Society in April of 2005. Members are selected for their “exceptional contributions to the welfare and development of the university and the community.”

History

The Sterne-Lion Research Scholarships

Thanks to a significant donation, each year the History Department awards the Sterne-Lion Research Scholarships in History to support already-funded research projects by department majors. These funds are used to support students who wish to continue their research in the United States or abroad. These research awards are funded by the department and are allocated on a competitive basis.

Among the recent recipients of the Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship is Anna Dobosz, who studied the history of the seventeenth century in the city of Gdańsk, Poland, where different English and German acting troupes performed plays by William Shakespeare. Anna uncovered a rich archive on the theater and was able to spend a few weeks in Poland looking through state archives, which contain many original documents from performances held there in the seventeenth century. Anna’s advisor, History Professor Eric Ash, said that the money from the Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship “made it possible to continue the research in Poland and to use the archives there.” Without the generosity of external donors, opportunities for undergraduate research travel would be much reduced.

Geology

Geology Sample Collections and Core Library

The Geology Sample Collections and Core Library contain about 8,000 boxes (145 tons) of fossil, rock, and mineral samples, and it is one of the few depositories in Michigan containing core samples donated primarily by the oil industry. The collections are housed in Old Main, along with the department’s rock preparation and thin sectioning equipment. They are curated by David J. Lowrie, who has been with the Wayne State University Geology Department since 1964. The collection is considered to be one of the finest in Michigan and has a great historic significance — containing, among other things, some of the few remaining specimens in the mineral collection once owned by Thomas Edison. “We have a small but world-class collection,” says Lowrie, who is also an active member of the Michigan Mineralogical Society. “Our minerals have been displayed at innumerable gem and mineral shows, and we have received local and national recognition.”

A major research institution like Wayne State has an historical obligation to catalogue and preserve important rock and mineral collections, including those from funded research projects carried out by faculty.

David J. Lowrie and the Geology Sample Collections and Core Library.

Interdisciplinary Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies Women’s Scholarship Fund was established in 1980 by faculty and staff members in the University Studies/Weekend College Program, now known as the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. The fund is used to support the study of German language and culture in Germany. The endowment, established in Wayne State’s Department of German and Slavic Studies, annually provides scholarships enabling students to pursue their study of German language and culture in Germany.

Upon accepting the donation, German and Slavic Studies Department Chair Donald Haase said, “The pride and community spirit of the German-American community in Southeastern Michigan have always been remarkable.” He noted, too, that “cultural education and the formation of the individual through edifying cultural experiences find expression in this gift, which carries on the best of the German-American heritage.”
Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics takes pride in the quality and variety of programs offered to WSU students and the greater community. One such program is the WSU Math Corps. Founded in 1991 as a volunteer, after-school tutoring program for middle school students in Detroit Public Schools, the WSU Math Corps is a combined academic enrichment and mentoring program that brings middle and high school students from Detroit public schools together, with college students, to learn math together, as well as to interact with professional mathematicians in a university setting. It is based on the dream of creating a self-perpetuating “corps” of students from middle school through college, who, excel academically, hold values that breed success in general, and who, through strong mentoring relationships, pass their knowledge and their values on to younger students, who in turn do the same. The WSU Math Corps Scholarship Fund was established in June 2001 to recognize academic achievement, dedication to learning, and community involvement. With generous support from the Thompson Foundation, the fund supports the continued success of Math Corps students by providing financial assistance for their education at Wayne State University.

Near Eastern and Asian Studies

Professors Rouchdy-Fakhouri Endowed Scholarship Fund

The Rouchdy-Fakhouri Endowed Scholarship provides financial support to meritorious undergraduate or graduate students in the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Studies to pursue the study of Arabic language. It was made possible by a significant donation from Dr. Aleya Rouchdy and Dr. Hani Fakhouri, both of whom have decades-long ties to Wayne State.

Dr. Rouchdy came to WSU in 1970 as an assistant professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She reshaped the Arabic curriculum and built a program comparable with those in other major universities. In 1994, she began to serve as the chairperson of the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Studies, a position she held until her retirement in 2004. Widely published, Dr. Rouchdy is nationally and internationally recognized as an authority on Arabic sociolinguistics.

Dr. Hani Fakhouri, her husband, received his BA in 1958 and MA in 1961 from Wayne State. In 1972, he joined the faculty at the University of Michigan — Flint, and served there until his retirement in 2000. He has an extensive list of publications and is the recipient of several honors, recognitions and awards, including a Fulbright Research Award in 1985.

Asked what prompted her and her husband’s gift to the department, Dr. Rouchdy says that “the best thing about Wayne State is the students. They’re what made my years of teaching so enjoyable, and I wanted to do something to help them.”

Nutrition and Food Science

NFS Parent Family Endowed Fellowship Fund

In 1990, Dr. Marvin E. Parent became the first recipient of a PhD granted through the Nutrition and Food Science Department at Wayne State University. A little more than a decade later, in 2001, he became the first person to establish an endowed fellowship for the NFS Department.

Dr. Parent funded this endowment to forever honor the loving memory of his father and mother, Samuel H. Parent and Carlene Pellizzon, a Project Manager and Scientist at the NFS Department, Dr. Parent says, “a passion to teach nutrition began to emerge. I felt the need to acquire academic credentials to support this teaching goal, so at the age of 50 I enrolled in a PhD program in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. The NFS and Chemistry Departments structured an interdisciplinary program that capitalized on my academic preparation.

Finally, at the age of 55, I was granted a PhD. The entire academic pursuit was such a fulfilling experience that I vowed to establish an endowed fellowship to help fund future NFS graduates.” The first Parent Family Endowed Fellowship recipient was Dr. Michael Pellizzon, a Project Manager and Scientist at Research Diets, Inc., who says that “I was very proud to receive this award. It encouraged me to continue reaching for excellence and provided me with financial assistance that went towards the completion of my doctoral degree.”

Philosophy

Seymour Riklin Memorial Lecture

Each fall, the Philosophy Department hosts the Seymour Riklin Memorial Lecture. One of the two lectures that the department presents each year, the Riklin Lecture strives to be accessible to the non-philosopher as well as the more philosophically inclined. The lecture is made possible by a donation in memory of Seymour Riklin, who graduated from Wayne State University with BA in 1936. After receiving two Masters degrees — one in English from the University of Chicago, the other in Philosophy from the University of Michigan — he taught at the University of Michigan, Case Western Reserve, and at Wayne State.

The Philosophy Department is proud to boast a distinguished and ongoing tradition of pursuing analytic philosophy in a spirited, lively, and productive fashion. The Department’s strength lies in its distinctive approach and vision, centering on the fundamental areas in analytic philosophy. The department is grateful for the support of alumni and friends.

Wayne State University Math Corps

In 1991, as a volunteer, after-school tutoring program for middle school students in Detroit Public Schools, the WSU Math Corps is a combined academic enrichment and mentoring program that brings middle and high school students from Detroit public schools together, with college students, to learn math together, as well as to interact with professional mathematicians in a university setting. It is based on the dream of creating a self-perpetuating “corps” of students from middle school through college, who, excel academically, hold values that breed success in general, and who, through strong mentoring relationships, pass their knowledge and their values on to younger students, who in turn do the same. The WSU Math Corps Scholarship Fund was established in June 2001 to recognize academic achievement, dedication to learning, and community involvement. With generous support from the Thompson Foundation, the fund supports the continued success of Math Corps students by providing financial assistance for their education at Wayne State University.

Asking what prompted her and her husband’s gift to the department, Dr. Rouchdy says that “the best thing about Wayne State is the students. They’re what made my years of teaching so enjoyable, and I wanted to do something to help them.”

http://clasp.wayne.edu/
Physics and Astronomy

Thanks to a generous gift from Mr. Frank Warchol and Mrs. Jane Warchol, the Physics Department at Wayne State was able to establish a student exchange program with the Université de Paris-Sud Orsay during summer 2006. Two WSU graduate students, Ronald Tackett and Steven Schmidt, spent the month of May in France, working closely with students and faculty. They began several new research projects with their French colleagues while also taking the opportunity to explore historical and artistic landmarks in Paris. Ron called it “an out of this world experience that allowed me the opportunity to not only learn about how research is performed abroad, but take in the culture as well.” Steven said that “as a beginner in the realm of research, this experience was one of the most rewarding.” In order to expand the benefits of this exchange, a graduate student from the Université de Paris-Sud, Charlotte Benêt, visited Wayne State. Charlotte worked in WSU labs during the month of June, and was impressed by the meetings “between the senior scientists and the graduate students,” noting that at Wayne State “even the undergraduate students take an active part in many research projects.” Above all, she said she enjoyed “meeting very friendly people from the US and other countries in the lab.” The exchange was overseen by Dr. Gavin Lawes and Dr. Ramanathan Suryanarayanan, both of whom spoke highly of the scientific as well as cultural benefits of the exchange.

Political Science

The Department of Political Science’s Lent Upson Lecture series is named in honor of Dr. Lent Upson, a nationally recognized leader in the field of public administration in the first half of the 20th century. Dr. Upson organized the School of Public Affairs and Social Work at Wayne State University in 1935 and served as dean of the school until his death in 1950. Lent Upson was also one of the founders and the first director of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, an organization that later became the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, which co-sponsors the annual lecture.

The lecture is given by a prominent academic or government official. Among the recent speakers is Meg Falk, a 1980 graduate of the Master of Public Administration Program and director of the Office of Family Policy for the Department of Defense. Meg described what it was like to be in her office at the Pentagon the morning of September 11, 2001, and how, afterward she went about setting up a center at a local hotel for victims’ families that provided food, shelter, counseling, and financial and legal assistance for the bereaved. Her Public Administration background proved beneficial in this. “The classes at Wayne State challenged me to think on my feet,” she said. For her efforts on behalf of such families, Falk received the prestigious Women in Government Award.

The Department of Political Science notes with gratitude the past financial support of alumni and friends. Many charitable donations received have allowed the Department to provide travel money to undergraduate and graduate students enabling them to present their research at professional conferences, enhance student scholarships, and support faculty research in multiple ways. It is through these generous contributions that the Political Science Department at Wayne State University has remained a top-ranking program in the United States.

Psychology

Charles L. Gdowski Memorial Research Award

Alicia Shapinsky was the 2005 recipient of the annual Charles L. Gdowski Memorial Research Award. Charles Gdowski was a graduate of the Wayne State University Clinical Training Program and was a major contributor to the program as a research mentor and as a lecturer. Dr. Gdowski’s family and friends established this fund to recognize clinical students who show promise in research in clinical psychology. The award is determined by a panel of judges who consider the merit of a completed research project in clinical psychology. Alicia Shapinsky’s submission was presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in 2004, and the manuscript was published in a scholarly journal. The project was conducted as Alicia’s master’s thesis with her advisor, Dr. Lisa J. Rapport.

Alicia Shapinsky was the 2005 recipient of the annual Charles L. Gdowski Memorial Research Award

Charles L. Gdowski Memorial Research Award

Alicia Shapinsky was the 2005 recipient of the annual Charles L. Gdowski Memorial Research Award. Charles Gdowski was a graduate of the Wayne State University Clinical Training Program and was a major contributor to the program as a research mentor and as a lecturer. Dr. Gdowski’s family and friends established this fund to recognize clinical students who show promise in research in clinical psychology. The award is determined by a panel of judges who consider the merit of a completed research project in clinical psychology. Alicia Shapinsky’s submission was presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in 2004, and the manuscript was published in a scholarly journal. The project was conducted as Alicia’s master’s thesis with her advisor, Dr. Lisa J. Rapport.

Alicia Shapinsky was the 2005 recipient of the annual Charles L. Gdowski Memorial Research Award
Romance Languages and Literatures

Students in French, Italian, and Spanish gain widely from study abroad programs, not just in linguistic ability but also in multicultural awareness. A recent student in Mexico wrote that “this was one of the best experiences of my life. Xalapa was new and exciting, my host family was wonderful, and there was never a dull moment.” In addition to the Mexican program for students in Spanish, Italian students can spend a month in the summer in the Abruzzo region of Italy, and French students have been attending the summer program at the Université Laval in Quebec. A student recently returned from the Abruzzo program said that “my Italian study abroad experience was one of the best things I have ever done in my life. You will not find nicer people or a more fun environment to learn the Italian language and experience the country’s culture than in Cagliano-Aterno.”

International travel allows students to immerse themselves in the language and culture of the region they are studying. Thanks to travel and living support provided by donors, more of our students are able to experience the many benefits of living abroad, enriching their undergraduate careers. This opportunity is truly a life-changing experience.

Sociology

One of the Sociology Department’s newest hires, Professor Khari Brown, earned his BA from Wayne State in 1998. Seven years later, he returned as a faculty member, occupying an office on the same floor as his father, Political Science Professor Ron Brown. “I had no idea he’d come here,” the elder Brown said, pleased at the turn of events. After he finished his undergraduate degree at Wayne State, Khari went to Ann Arbor for his graduate school work, earning his MA and PhD from the University of Michigan. He returned to WSU after a year spent at the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago on a postdoctoral research fellowship.

His father has welcomed his son to Wayne State as a colleague. “Khari has grown to the point where I see him as an equal,” Ron says. “I see him, not as a graduate student, but as a junior faculty member.”

The Department of Sociology now has a core group of fine junior faculty members that includes Khari Brown. These more recent hires, when combined with the experience of the senior faculty, make for a dynamic department, and help to keep Wayne State’s commitment to the study of the surrounding urban environment strong.