2017 Employee Recognition
Frank Stasa III
Retiree, School of Medicine


1. Created the first computerized student testing system
2. Created Year III lottery program
3. Created faculty activity logging system
4. Created the shared reading material bin at Scott Hall
Robert A. Sedler
40 Years, Law School

Professor Sedler is a constitutional law icon at Wayne Law and in the legal community. He has taught constitutional law to generations of students and has been involved in many important legal cases, including the recent Deboer v. Snyder case, which led to the U.S. Supreme Court finding a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. All of us at Wayne Law congratulate Professor Sedler on 40 years of inspiring our students.

— Dean Gable
Love and pride for WSU is evident every day with Chris. She shows relentless dedication to her position and to the students at this university. Chris Bowen, you rock!

— Andrea Gerber
I have designed and created many things for Wayne State University and the School of Medicine. A pinnacle moment would be the honor of being asked, in 2011, to do a faux stained-glass window for the meditation room after the Mazurek Medical Education Commons were built.
William McDonald
15 Years, Facilities Planning and Management

I work for the Facilities Planning and Management department as a maintenance painter.
Derek Daniels
10 Years, College of Liberal Arts and Science

I was honored to receive tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2013.
Alan Jacobson
15 Years, Budget, Planning and Analysis

Alan Jacobson, celebrating his 15th year at WSU, has been the linchpin of the Office of University Budget. He can be counted on to be a great example for newer employees. He's always willing to help and contribute to make the team better.

Congratulations on a great 15 years!

— Jeff Bolton
My journey here at the Wayne State University School of Medicine has been one of excitement and joy. Just knowing that we are helping others provides me with purpose!
Sandra is an amazing member of the parking department. She is always willing to go the extra mile to provide great service with a smile to our customers. Her attitude and personality shine and reflect the BAO values.

— Brian Niswonger
I had the privilege and pleasure of being a faculty member and then a leader in the excellent, internationally known Department of Interdisciplinary Studies until 2007, when it was eliminated. I was then welcomed warmly into Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures — my new academic home — by new and supportive colleagues. I am proud of all I have been able to contribute to WSU during my 42-year career.
I feel such great pride and loyalty toward WSU. Over the years, I have tried to give back whenever possible. Whether volunteering for Open House, writing postcards for potential students or donning my WSU bling regalia at a Late Night Breakfast, I have many wonderful memories. I will always be grateful for the wonderful experiences, for giving me the opportunity to finish my education and for acting as the landscape where I met my husband. I can't wait to see what the future holds.
Scott F. Martin
25 Years, Business Operations

Scott exudes professionalism. He is truly an asset to our university.

—Leo Lieberman
Felicia M. Thomas
10 Years, Law School

Dean Thomas has served in a number of critical roles at Wayne Law, previously as a director in our admissions office and now as assistant dean for student affairs and director of diversity initiatives. She provides important support and mentorship for our students and is integral to our efforts to create an ever more diverse and inclusive institution. Dean Thomas’ innovative leadership is an essential piece of our operations.

— Dean Gable
Dorothea has been a contributing member of the HR team during her time at WSU. As a member of the HR MPN Region, she is instrumental in ensuring employees are added, changed or removed from our HRIS system. She builds relationships with our clients and colleagues, whether sharing memories of Tang — a favorite drink — or bringing her tools from home to make an adjustment. We are glad to have her!

— Cheri Nowak
Benjamin Thomas
45 Years, Business Operations

Wow, 45 years! Truly a testament for pride and service to WSU.

— Leo Lieberman
Janice Green
Retiree, College of Education

After almost 41 years in higher education, it is time to move on to the next chapter in my life! Wayne State University has been more than a wonderful place to work — it has been like my second home. I had the privilege of working with an amazing group of folks in the College of Education and around campus. Not only has WSU given me the opportunity to meet and work with great people, it has given my family and me our educational legacy. My husband, Charles Green — who retired from WSU after 34 years — my mother, two daughters, my sister-in-law, nieces, god-brother and myself earned degrees at Wayne State University. Between all of us, we have 15 certificates and degrees. From the Mike Ilitch School of Business to the College of Education, from the Tartars to the Warriors, we are WSU!
Anthony prides himself on the customer service skills that he has honed during his tenure at WSU. He is truly an asset to our university.

— Leo Lieberman
Kathleen Schmeling
40 Years, University Libraries

It is a pleasure working with my colleagues at the Walter P. Reuther Library. I have been most fortunate to begin and continue my career as an archivist at one of the most prestigious research repositories at Wayne State University and in the country.
LaShonda Cooley
15 Years, Research

The Sponsored Program Administration office has always felt like my home away from home, and many of the people I work with feel like family. I've had the pleasure of spending my entire university career in the Division of Research and have enjoyed serving my colleagues and the research community alike. Here's to another 15 years!
Fred is a reassuring, fair and uplifting face in our department. I'm so grateful for all of the many questions he's fielded for me. He's a great department member and a really excellent director of graduate studies. Thank you for your service to our department, Fred!

— Jade Metzger
Melton has provided award-winning service to Parking and Transportation and the WSU community for years. He is a vital member of our team. Congratulations on 25 years from all of us, Melton!

— Brian Niswonger
In 2007, I was selected as a Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellow.
Juman is a pleasure to work with and she has passion about IT auditing. She is always happy to share her knowledge.

— Eulonda Whitmore
Tina Evola (40 years), Robert Dixon (30 years), Patrick Thompson (10 years)
Computing & Information Technology

With a combined 80 years of WSU service and experience, C&IT operations are in great hands! Your behind-the-scenes commitment to campus' IT service levels continues to play an integral role in the student experience here at WSU. Thank you so much for your valued contribution!

I am so glad to be part of your team!

— Bob Hogle
In the winter of '92, before I was hired full time, I was a technician in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center business office. We had a huge snowstorm that closed the university down in the afternoon. As I tried to slowly make my way to the freeway to start my slide home, my car died near Cass and Antoinette. I tried pushing it into a parking spot and my boss at the time, Marla Stone, saw me and stopped. She helped get my car into the spot and took me to dinner with her husband, Jim, to wait out the traffic. They took me home with them and let me stay the night. I knew I was in the right place.
Deborah McCreless
30 Years, Human Resources

Debbie is the foundation of HR administration for the Region A HR Team! She is a library of WSU HR information and is always happy to share her skills and knowledge with the team and our clients.

I speak for our clients and HR team when I say you make a difference and we would not be able to achieve our level of success without you! Congratulations, Debbie, on 30 years as a true Warrior!

— Rob Miller
It's really fun to think that I've been here 30 years.

In the meantime, using employee benefits, I've earned my master’s and my Ph.D. I've gotten so good at being a student, I'll have to find a new program to enroll in.
Poco Kernsmith
15 Years, School of Social Work

Dr. Poco Kernsmith has been actively engaged in the School of Social Work and has fulfilled the mission of the school and Wayne State University through her groundbreaking research.

— Jun Sung Hong
Rochelle White
15 Years, Marketing and Communications

I plan events here on campus. I'm a student as well, and I absolutely love anything related to giving back. The Math Corps program is my absolute favorite; being part of a team that helped secure a sizeable gift for those students was amazing. Their appreciation, gratitude and ability to absorb this amazing atmosphere of learning and support for one another is phenomenal.
Dr. Joanne Holbert
40 Years, College of Education

Joanne has always greeted me warmly and invited conversation in her office whenever I needed advice. When I joined the College of Education's development office some three years ago, Joanne helped me navigate this college and steered me in the right direction.

— Mary Barden
Professor Fox is an expert in international law and human rights. He has been the director of Wayne Law’s Program for International Legal Studies since its founding and has worked closely with our students as the advisor of the Jessup International Moot Court team. For the third consecutive year, the team has won the U.S. Midwest Regional of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and advanced to its international rounds. Professor Fox’s dedication to our students and their success is evident every day in his work.

— Dean Gable
Audrey will forever hold a special place in my heart. She is kind, patient and works tirelessly to take care of her staff. Audrey took a chance with me and hired me as an academic advisor, and for this I am forever indebted. I wish I could have grown with Audrey over the past years and experienced her growth, but since I am here now, I (we) intend to make these moments last forever. Audrey, you deserve EVERYTHING coming your way, and I pray that you receive even more! Enjoy this monumental day! Wayne State should roll out the red carpet from your parking spot to your office because you deserve it!

— Nick Patterson
Faye Brown
20 Years, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

She is the first face that students, faculty and staff see upon entering the college's Office of Student Affairs. She provides encouraging words to prospective students as they arrive to interview during the admission process. She provides words of comfort and motivation to current students as they prepare for midterms and finals, or during challenging moments throughout their time at the college. She is known to shed tears of happiness or sorrow with those who seek her counsel and support. To many, she is that loving mother figure, auntie or older sister whose smile adds a ray of sunshine to their day. Faye is highly regarded and respected within EACPHS and we are proud to work with her. We all congratulate her on achieving 20 years of service at Wayne State University.

— Mary Clark
Isabel has contributed her knowledge as a personnel officer in service to WSU for over 40 years. She has the same smile she had when she started. She has remained one of the nicest, most helpful and friendliest people you will ever meet. Congratulations amiga on your service and commitment to WSU.

— Petrice Hughey
Dr. Janice Green has been extremely supportive of the development officers at the College of Education. She has provided direction and support to the COE Alumni Association Board for many years and her own support of our students has been exemplary. We will all miss her positive reports at the monthly faculty assembly meetings and her commitment to Wayne State University!

— Mary Barden
Michael Wright (10 years), Christa Raju (15 years), Marketing & Communications

Sharing a birthday on August 22 wasn’t enough for Christa Raju and Michael Wright - now they share work anniversary.

Christa, thank you for 15 years of service to WSU.

Michael, thank you for 10 years of service with the Office of Marketing and Communications.
During the time TeAundra has been with WSU, she has served in multiple personnel and HR-related roles. Most recently, she has established herself as a business partner for one of HR MPN Region's key clients. She has built positive relationships and can be counted on to apply her knowledge of WSU policies and procedures to help leaders and employees navigate working at Wayne.

— Cheri Nowak
Marta Dmytrenko-Ahrabian
25 Years, Provost and VP Academic Affairs

Marta has worked tirelessly to support the English Language Institute students while they were preparing to enter WSU and long after they had completed the ELI and entered the university. She has compassionately helped ELI and WSU students, providing them with hours and hours of writing and editing help so they can successfully graduate.

— Bruce Morgan
Karen is the base that holds us all together. She constantly ensures that we are driving between the lanes and don’t veer too far off course. Her knowledge, input and honesty keep us all on our toes! I value her as a person and as part of what makes our team strong!

— Cathy Kay
Shetoya Rice
15 Years, Research

I have so many, but I'd have to say my favorite memory of my time here at WSU is being a member of NIMH COR (National Institution of Mental Health Career Opportunities In Research and Training). That's when I caught the research bug and attended several research colloquia. I especially enjoy working at WSU because it's an integral part of the community that I live in. I am contributing to that community by enriching the lives of others, one participant at a time.
Brenda Bolden
30 Years, Fiscal Operations

I would like to recognize my supervisor, Rose Cobb, for her outstanding leadership and the support she has provided for not only me but to all who work with her in the Fiscal Operations/Office Service Department. She is a true exemplar of customer service. Her guidance has led us to create a healthy work environment with respect to developing a relationship with other co-workers. She has been labeled our "Office Mother" and everyone knows it. She has always encouraged us to take on new assignments and job prospects, and is always considerate of others. Her advice and respect has been genuine. She brings enthusiasm to any office. I'm blessed to have worked under her as my supervisor here at WSU. It's not about me, it's about her — my boss, Rose Cobb.
Jeffrey Ram
40 Years, School of Medicine

I love the fact that I have great colleagues in many colleges — like Siobhan Gregory (Industrial Design), Donna Kashian (CLAS), Carol Miller and Amar Basu (Engineering), Ikuko Kato, and Sandra Yarema (Education) — with whom I've done funded collaborative science and outreach projects at the Belle Isle Aquarium, the Great Ships Initiative, the National Museum of the Great Lakes, and in the Great Lakes and Detroit River. We look forward to a future of local impacts and national recognition.
Timothy Butler
30 Years, Mike Ilitch School of Business

Led four Study Abroad programs to Europe.

Wayne State University business students traveled to Poland in June as part of a study abroad program. Here, they are in the historic butcher district of Wroclaw, Poland. Front row, kneeling, from left: Tameeka Bates, associate professor Tim Butler, and Jason Kupser. Back row, from left: Pam Stump, Andrew Rund, Darrell Joyce, Tomasz Peda, Dan Snyder, Katie Caulfield, Lovejeet Sidhu, Tyler Haksluto, Emily Shefferly, Beverly Butler, Steven Kudla and Alicia Parikh.
Stephanie J. Gilkey
20 Years, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

The WSU PA program is rooted in the masterminding of Stephanie Gilkey. She developed it from the ground up and has been a huge part of maintaining its strength and good fortune. WSU PA alumni are proud to have been a part of this great program. Thank you, Stephanie, for all your efforts.

— Jamie McQueen
Professor Dillof's work centers on criminal law and explores the ways that different forms of justice underlie our civil, criminal and constitutional law systems. He has had a multifaceted career that includes being a practicing litigator, a judicial clerk, a law professor and a musician. We are all grateful to Professor Dillof for his 15 years of service.

— Dean Gable
As a result of Dedra's long-standing service to the School of Medicine's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, she maintains a bond with many physicians who are now practicing in medically underserved areas. She has a wealth of knowledge and is the official office historian!

— De’Andrea Matthews
Merilyn is a wealth of knowledge and an asset to Benefits. We are lucky to have her and are thankful for her service and collaboration among the HR division.

— Hannah Hudson
Professor Abramowicz is an expert in family law and writes about the history of child custody law and adoption, and on the place of childhood in the troubled intersection between family and other areas of law. Her scholarly work has been selected for several prestigious conferences, including the Stanford/Harvard/Yale Junior Faculty Forum and the Columbia/Georgetown/UCLA/USC Law & Humanities Junior Scholars Workshop. All of us at Wayne Law are proud of her achievements and service to our school.

— Dean Gable
Leah Robinson and I worked together at the School of Medicine when she was our only academic advisor. Leah came into this position with no medical school experience and provided academic support for the medical school with an enrollment of over 1,200 students. She quickly adapted to the needs of the medical learner and developed many innovative programs. She consistently went above and beyond for our students, providing both one-on-one and group-learning activities to promote academic excellence. She developed the "3,500 Question Challenge" for our Year 2 students to provide motivation and a bank of free questions to better prepare them for the Step 1 licensing exam. That led to the start of our students performing above the national average on that exam. She has an amazing work ethic and is dedicated to student success. I am grateful to have her as a colleague.

— Kathleen Connors
Diane is a 1989 graduate of Wayne Law. She was instrumental in developing our Student Voluntary Pro Bono Program and Public Interest Law Center, which helps students serve the community and find opportunities working in public interest jobs. Diane’s contributions to Wayne Law and the surrounding legal community are tremendous.

— Dean Gable
Dr. Jerrold Brandell has been highly supportive of junior faculty members, and his engagement with researchers and scholars abroad has been highly significant to the School of Social Work.

— Jun Sung Hong
Dr. Fredrick Pociask
20 Years, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Dr. Pociask is a dedicated and committed faculty member in the PT program who, for over 20 years, has worked to ensure that students go on to become excellent physical therapists who embody the mission and vision of our program. The PT program is blessed to have Dr. Pociask. As a team, we send him our congratulations and best wishes. Thank you, Dr. Pociask, for continuing to be an inspiration to your colleagues and students!

— Sujay Galen
Rebecca Hollancid
10 Years, Law School

Rebecca has revolutionized Wayne Law’s records and registration office. Her efforts and knowledge are the backbone of almost everything we do. She keeps the wheels turning, and we are so grateful to her.

— Dean Gable
Cheryl Waites
10 Years, School of Social Work

Dean Cheryl Waites has demonstrated leadership in the School of Social Work by providing a supportive environment for faculty, employees and students. She also fulfilled the mission and goal of the School of Social Work through organizing events, ad-hoc committees and more.

— Jun Sung Hong
Karen Schramm
35 Years, Graduate School

Karen is always ready to lend a hand to help anyone who needs it. In her time at WSU, she has worked in physics, psychology, and now the Graduate School, where she assists faculty and students across campus. We have all been fortunate to benefit from her upbeat personality, team spirit and ability to get the job done. Thank you for all you do, Karen, and congratulations on your 35 years at WSU!

— Annmarie Cano
Steven L. Winter
15 Years, Law School

Professor Winter is an accomplished constitutional law scholar and one of our most innovative faculty members. He has argued important civil rights cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court and has a distinguished record of scholarship and curricular innovation. In March, Professor Winter traveled to Washington, D.C., and appeared during open court at the U.S. Supreme Court to move for the admission of 12 Wayne Law alumni into the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

— Dean Gable
Janice Green
Retiree, College of Education

As I reflect on the past, the present and the future, I am reminded of the WSU experiences that made me the educator, administrator, colleague and friend I am today. The students are wonderful! I am so thankful for the friendships I have made, the lives I have touched, the words of wisdom I was able to share, and the initiatives and programs that were developed under my leadership that contributed to the vision of the College of Education and Wayne State University. Above all, I am extremely thankful for being in a position to help students become successful! A few programs I am most proud of include:

- The Minority Student Programs
- The Summer Career Academy
- The Young Educators Society (YES)
- The Detroit Public Schools Higher Education Consortium
- The Morris Hood Scholars Programs

Thanks for everything, WSU! No matter where I am or what I am doing, there will always be a special place in my heart for Wayne State University.
Kim Bostick
30 Years, Computing & Information Technology

I actually started working here 35 years ago as a student assistant in the College of Liberal Arts. A few years later, I was a student assistant and then technician in the College of Engineering. After earning my bachelor's in 1987, I got hired full time by the development office. I later got a job in Fiscal Operations and, in 1997, I got a position in Computing and Information Technology, where I work today. I have been married almost 25 years to my husband, Bob. I have two children: Emma, 16, and Jimmy, 13.
Julie Osburn
15 Years, College of Education

Julie is the consummate professional. She is always cheerful and hardworking, and she has great follow-through. Her role as chair of the College of Education Scholarship Committee demonstrates all these qualities and then some. Julie works closely with development and goes the extra mile to help us steward donors and their support of our students!

— Mary Barden
Michelle Luck
10 Years, Student Affairs

It has been a privilege to work with Michelle Luck during the past 10 years. Michelle demonstrates a strong commitment to the office of financial aid and helps me every day with her overall support. She’s a great part of the team. On the most difficult days, she keeps us going with her stories and humorous spin on everyday events.

— Cathy Kay
Leah Robinson is an incredible asset to Wayne State University as a whole, and to the medical school specifically. Her professionalism and advocacy on behalf of students exemplifies her commitment to higher education. It is my honor to congratulate her on this milestone.

— De’Andrea Matthews
Deborah McCreless
30 Years, Human Resources

Deb McCreless is someone you can count on whenever you have a question regarding university policies and procedures. She has a wealth of knowledge and is a team player. She rocks!
Debbie, thank you so much for:

• Baking all of the delicious cupcakes
• Coordinating our potlucks!
• Answering our never-ending questions (with a smile on your face...most of the time. LOL).

Congratulations, Debbie, on your 30 years of service!

— HR Client Services Region A Team
Ms. Gresham is our communications expert in Student Evaluation of Teaching, helping translate our statistical details to faculty in a clear way. We have made a number of technical advancements in the way we share information with the university about faculty teaching excellence. Reni has been with us throughout the process, honing our message and helping faculty with technical access to the data they need. She has been integral to our goal of improving our level of customer service.

— Laura Woodward
Emil Lozanov
25 Years, College of Liberal Arts & Science

Student enrollment in sciences, particularly in chemistry, increased in part due to Emil giving over a thousand outreach presentations to more than 30,000 people.
Marie Diebold has been an exemplary employee for the past 10 years. She is very hard working, detailed, dedicated and knowledgeable. Marie has been a very important part of the BMT Clinical Trials Office and we are honored to have her as our employee. Thank you for your years of dedication.

— Stephanie Bower
Candis Harris
10 Years, Business Operations

*Candis is a positive force in our office. She is consistently receiving feedback from parents about how helpful and patient she is when answering their questions. She exemplifies customer service! She is resourceful and finds the answers to even the most difficult questions. We are blessed to have Candis as a member of our team!*

— Jeanine Bessette
Favorite memories at WSU always consist of laughter. Whether it was with faculty or other staff, laughter always brightens our days and encourages camaraderie. Favorite moments include the Bone Marrow Transplant Team in the Department of Oncology, especially with Dr. Lois Ayash, Dr. Abhinav Deol, and Dr. Muneer Abidi, as well as co-workers who are now friends, Wanda Sheard, Antoinette Sykes, Silva Pregja, Diane Bland and Lisa Bey-Knight. I’ve been blessed to work with such a great group of people during my time at WSU.
Thank you for 15 years for fun, laughter and hard work. Your dedication to WSU is greatly appreciated. We’re lucky to call you our co-worker and friend!

Thank you!
Today I join the entire university in thanking you for 40 years of service to Wayne State. Your extraordinary commitment and dedication have made a profound difference to our university. Our students, faculty and staff are able to pursue their dreams without worry about their safety. Our surrounding Midtown community is flourishing because of your leadership and the dedication of your officers. Without your service, Wayne State could not fulfill its mission. Thank you from all of us.

— President Wilson
To All of Our 2017 Honorees and Retirees...

Wayne State has been made better by each of your unique contributions. Thank you for the countless hours and sacrifices that have been made because you are committed to making this university a great place to work and be educated.

Because of you, we can achieve our vision of being a pre-eminent, public, urban research university known for academic and research excellence, success across a diverse student body, and meaningful engagement in our urban community.
WAYNE STATE

AIM HIGHER