

wayne state

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Pivotal Moments

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY





From left, Alumni Association Executive Director Ty Stevenson, Tom Bomberski, Dr. Sultana Nahar, Wayne State Chief of Police Tony Holt, Rana Elmir, Wayne State University President Dr. M. Roy Wilson, and Dr. Suzanna Rocco Dillon.

WSU Alumni Pride, Passion Recognized

Rana Elmir '04 FPCA Recent Alumni Award

As a graduate of the Wayne State University's Journalism Institute for Media Diversity, it is no surprise that Rana Elmir has devoted her career to storytelling. But she has taken it one step further – not only telling the stories of people from diverse backgrounds, but also working tirelessly as an activist to protect their rights to civil liberty.

Rana currently serves as the Deputy Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. Her work focuses on the ACLU's mission to protect privacy in the digital age and the rights of people of color, immigrants, and children.

Rana's family moved to the U.S. from Lebanon when she was four years old. She found her voice and her passion for activism at Wayne State University and has continued to be involved with her alma mater—including serving as a past president on

the WSU College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts Alumni Association Board.

Dr. Suzanna Rocco Dillon Faculty Service Award

A tireless advocate for the rights of children and individuals with disabilities, Dr. Suzanna Rocco Dillon's passion and commitment has been recognized by many, including U.S. Congress. In 2011, she was awarded a Congressional Award from the National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities.

At the state level, Dr. Dillon was recently awarded a highly competitive federal grant for the Michigan Leadership and Education in Adapted Physical Education project. This project will provide nearly \$1 million to train physical educators throughout the state.

She was instrumental in revisions to the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education, and also provided expert testimony before the Michigan House of Representative Education Committee on the need for quality physical education. She was recently invited to the White House Research Forum on Health and Fitness for Americans with Disabilities, which she will be attending next month.

Under her direction as an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at Wayne State, the Adapted Physical Education program is becoming a model for other universities.

Tom Bomberski '71, '76 Ed.

Homer D. Strong Award

Following his years at WSU, Tom Bomberski went on to a long career as a special education director and elementary school principal. But the former captain of the 1970 Tartar football team never lost his passion for Wayne State athletics. Tom has been an avid supporter of the Athletic Department, especially Wayne State Football, for nearly four decades.

He founded the constituent group of the WSU Alumni Association representing Athletics and has served as its first and only President. Under his leadership, the Athletics gained over 1500 supporters. Tom was instrumental in creating several signature Alumni Events, including the Annual Doc Andrews Hockey Night. He also created an annual wine tasting event where alumni gather at the Traffic Jam to honor past Warrior and Tartar Football Players while raising funds for WSU athletics.

Dr. Sultana Nahar '82, '87 CLAS

Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Sultana Nahar is a stellar example of the impact Wayne State alumni have beyond Detroit and even the United States. A prominent scientist, Sultana received her Ph.D. in Atomic Physics from Wayne in 1987. Currently she is a research scientist in the Department of Astronomy at the Ohio State University, but her influence has reached virtually every corner of the globe. Her work in nanoscience and biomedicine received world-wide attention in 2011 and was named by Astronomy Magazine as one of the four most important contributions of astronomy to human life.

She is a longstanding member of two major international collaborations: the Opacity Project and the Iron Project – based in the US, UK, Germany, France, Venezuela and Belgium. Her professional accolades are numerous and prestigious – including being elected as a fellow of the American Physical Society and being named Woman Physicist of the Month.

Dr. Nahar works to promote fellow scientists, especially women in developing countries. A role model for Muslim women, she is the founder of “The International Society of Muslim Women in Science.” She has also founded STEM programs in several countries including India, Egypt and Bangladesh. Previously, Dr. Nahar received the Daniel Gustafson Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 2013 Headliner Award by The Wayne State of Women of Wayne.

Anthony Holt '70 CLAS

Distinguished Alumni Award

Wayne State is the second safest campus in the entire state – despite its location in the heart of the largest urban city, thanks largely in part due to the work of Wayne State University Chief of Police Anthony (Tony) Holt. According to City of Detroit statistics, the work of Holt’s force has resulted in a dramatic drop in crime in Midtown, resulting in an estimated \$50 million savings to the city.

Tony received a bachelor’s degree in Sociology in 1970. He has been on patrol at Wayne for 35 years and became Chief of Police in 2008. His career highlights include implementing an average 90-second response time, and the “Eyes in the Sky” system – one of the most extensive surveillance systems in southeast Michigan with more than 850 cameras, including hi-definition cameras.

Chief Holt is also a long standing activist and advocate for young people and families and knows the importance of connecting academic success and achievement with athletics. He demonstrates his commitment to social and economic justice and educational access through his philanthropy, establishing a Scholarship in Social Work to help pave the way for the next generation of social workers.



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