

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Special Events and Services

Choosing Your Event Type

Events are not “one size fits all”-- they need to be tailored and specifically designed to achieve your goals and objectives.

Please refer to the list below as a starting point for different types of events.

Menu of Events

Seasonal Events

- **Fall Harvestfest:** Embrace the great outdoors with a picnic/barbecue during Michigan’s crisp, colorful fall season. (Ideal for Wayne State’s Homecoming weekend in October.)
- **Wayne Winter Blast:** Bring the picnic indoors with a winter wonderland theme, complete with ice sculptures, hot chocolate, baked Alaska and snow covered pines.
- **Springfest:** Signal a new beginning with an upscale brunch set against a vibrant backdrop of spring flowers and colors.
- **Summerfest:** Go back to the beach with a nautical-inspired luncheon of seafood favorites, including lobster, oysters and maybe a clambake.

Special Theme Events

- **A Night in Bangkok:** Stroll through the Bangkok marketplace and enjoy the exotic tastes of the Far East. Substitute the international cuisine of Mexico, Greece, India, France, Italy or the Middle East.
- **Moonlight Serenade Outdoor Summer Concert:** Dance under the stars to a jazz, classical, salsa, calypso or big band musical extravaganza paired with an elegant reception.
- **‘Grape Expectations’ Wine Tasting:** Celebrate wines from around the world with an exclusive selection of top-flight reds, whites and roses served with a delectable tasting menu.
- **What’s Cooking?:** Jazz up your breakfast, luncheon or dinner party with a lively cooking demonstration from the executive chef at AVI Food Systems.
- **Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:** Look at the past through the eyes of the future. Students take your guests down memory lane focusing on unit successes and upcoming initiatives. Follow with a cocktail reception.
- **Wayne State University: It’s Happening Here!:** Showcase Wayne State’s unique urban campus with a bus or walking tour highlighting hidden architectural gems, outdoor sculptures and new buildings. Precede the tour with a hearty breakfast or lunch.
- **Art Gallery Crawl:** Sit down to an intimate dinner at McGregor Conference Center before strolling over to the Community Arts Gallery for an insider’s look at an art exhibit

hosted by the gallery curator. Next, take a shuttle bus to the Jacob Gallery at Old Main for desserts.

- **Distinguished Author Lecture Series:** Feature three prominent authors or lecturers with connections to your unit on consecutive evenings. Your Dean will host a private dinner for top donors prior to each lecture.
- **Alumni “Green and Gold” Class Reunions:** Invite your graduates to a fun night of memories by reconnecting with old friends and enjoying a building tour. Evening includes reception, dinner and an update from your Dean.
- **Pub Night:** Meet your alumni, donors and friends for an informal social gathering at one of Wayne State’s famous hangouts such as Z’s Place, Traffic Jam or Union Street. Or step it up and go to an upscale pub downtown.
- **Opening Night:** An opening night is more than an evening at the theatre; it's an event. Host a reception or dinner prior to a performance of an acclaimed play at the renowned Hilberry or Bonstelle Theatres.
- **Anthony Wayne Film Festival:** Roll out the red carpet and premiere a Hollywood classic or a unit specific Capital Campaign video in the Community Arts Auditorium followed by a California-theme strolling reception. See Wayne state students dressed as your favorite movie and stage stars.
- **Las Vegas Casino Night:** Transform McGregor Conference Center into a casino showplace with slot machines, blackjack tables and Vegas style entertainment.
- **Off Campus, After Hours:** Treat your guests to dinner at a landmark Detroit area venue. Choose from the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe, Fairlane Manor in Dearborn, Cranbrook Institute in Bloomfield Hills or the Detroit Zoo.
- **Pancakes, Pancakes!:** Start a family tradition with a fun-filled pancake breakfast event. Enhance the festivities with an outdoor canopy, live music, a building tour and greetings from your Dean.
- **Adventures on the High Tea:** Create a sophisticated late afternoon English high tea. Your guests will relax, converse and enjoy finger sandwiches, scones, pastries and a variety of British, Indian and Chinese teas.
- **Leaders on Leadership:** What does effective, innovative leadership look like in the 21st century? Invite top-level leaders to your unit for a panel forum on the skills required to make a lasting change in a specialized field. Combine with a reception or buffet luncheon.
- **Tantalizing Tapas:** Experience the cuisine and culture of Spain with tapas tasting featuring Spanish wines, savory “small plates” of appetizers and spirited Andalusia Flamenco dancers.
- **Motown Blast:** In conjunction with Preservation Wayne, tour a historic Detroit building (such as the Penobscott or Guardian) before returning to campus for dinner and a lecture

on Motown's architectural legacy from Prof. Jerry Herron.

- **Mardi Gras Masquerade:** Life's a masquerade, so let's have a ball! Bring the spirit of Bourbon Street to WSU with a Creole and Cajun inspired dinner, elaborate Mardi Gras decorations and New Orleans jazz.
- **Made in Detroit:** Celebrate the best of the Motor City with a reception spotlighting homegrown products, including Faygo, Better Made potato chips; Sanders hot fudge sundaes, Vernor's, Kowalski sausage, Stroh's beer, Alinosi ice cream and Germack goodies. Add to the hometown spirit with a local musical group.
- **Reach for the Stars:** Wayne State's planetarium, located in Old Main, is a hidden jewel of the university. Let the Planetarium staff take your guests on a special journey into the heavens. Enjoy this show with a brief program from your Dean and a strolling supper.
- **A View from the Top:** See Wayne State's campus and beyond during a sit down dinner high up in The Towers residential hall. From a distance spot the Ambassador Bridge, the Renaissance Center, Old Main, St. Andrews and maybe a night game at Adams field.
- **South of the Border:** Transport your guests to Rio de Janeiro with a spectacular version of Brazil's famous Carnaval. Portuguese cuisine, Samba dancing and flamboyant costumes add excitement and authenticity to the festivities.
- **Hawaiian Fantasy:** Under the evening sky, recreate a Hawaiian Lu'au filled with Polynesian delicacies, Hula dancers, orchids, leis and a breathtaking fire knife dance.
- **Sushi with Style**
- **South by Southwest**
- **Dancing with the Stars (Disco, Big Band, Soc Hop, Cotton Club theme)**
- **Country/Western Hoe Down**
- **Fourth of July Festival**

Sporting Events

- **Alumni Hockey Night:** In collaboration with the Athletics Department, plan an evening at the Michigan State Fairgrounds Coliseum to watch the Warriors in action. Welcome your guests with a special VIP reception and a visit from the hockey coach. Substitute with a basketball or football game.
- **Golf Classic:** Tee off with an afternoon of golf at TPC of Michigan-Dearborn. Cap the day with a celebratory dinner and remarks from your Dean.

Dean or Director Events

- **First Impressions: Greetings from a Dean or Director:** Series of breakfasts, luncheons or dinners designed for a new or existing Dean/Director to share visions for unit/college, story of achievements and future plans.

Event benefits to unit:

- Cultivates donors
- Encourages unit involvement/giving

- Helps to satisfy 12-15 unit specific cultivation events
- Helps to satisfy requirement for 5-10 meetings with top prospects
- Helps to satisfy requirement for Board of Visitors hosted events
- Helps recruit Board of Visitor members
- Reinforces direction of unit to BOV members/donors