<First_name> <Last_name>
<Street_Line1><Street_Line2>
<City><State><Zip>

Dear <First_name>,

Every year brings its own stories and challenges, but this year at Wayne State University — our 150th anniversary — has been particularly noteworthy. Throughout the year, our campus community has taken time to reflect on Wayne State's accomplishments and celebrate its legacy in Detroit and around the world.

University presidents spend much of our time looking forward. We imagine ways our campus can evolve, the new discoveries that will come through our research and the impact our students will make after graduation. But you can't move forward without understanding where you came from.

The Detroit of 1868 was very different from the Detroit of today. Similarly, Wayne State is not the same university that it was 150 years ago. What began as a small medical college led by five Civil War-era doctors is now a thriving institution with 13 schools and colleges, students from all corners of the world, and renowned programs covering everything from medicine and science to law and the arts. I am humbled when I think about the 11 presidents before me who guided the transformation of this university, and my goal is to leave a solid foundation on which others can build.

The men and women who have learned, taught and worked on our campus have pushed the boundaries of knowledge, developed lifesaving medical solutions and made indelible cultural contributions. Their passion for the local community has helped Detroit weather its toughest times and has been vital to its recent resurgence. Wayne State's students have become leaders and innovators in hundreds of fields — wherever you go, there is likely a Warrior (or Tartar!) nearby.

While 150 years is an impressive milestone, in many ways we feel like Wayne State's story is just beginning. Our presence in Detroit is expanding. The new home of the Mike Ilitch School of Business opened in the District Detroit earlier this year, and a major renovation and expansion of the historic Hilberry Theatre complex is underway. The research conducted in the state-of-the-art Integrative Biosciences Center focuses on reducing health disparities in our city and around the world. And this fall, Wayne State welcomed the largest full-time freshman class in its history, confirming that students from across the street and around the globe are drawn to the excitement on our campus.

Our future successes will be rooted in our rich history, which is why anniversaries like this are so important. Reflecting on everything that's happened here since 1868 helps us better understand our identity, mission and opportunities. It's been inspiring to hear the stories of the Warriors who came before us and view the changes — physical, intellectual and cultural — that have transformed our community.

As part of this celebration, we've compiled a book looking back on the past 150 years, highlighting the people, events and breakthroughs that made Wayne State the institution that it is today. This publication — which I'm thrilled to share with you — tells our story, showcases the physical changes in our city and on our campus, and introduces you to the Warriors who went on to change the world.

Every good success story depends on collaboration. Our success is possible because of our relationships with peers from around the world, including fellow researchers, professors and leadership at some of the nation's most renowned universities. Thank you for your partnership with Wayne State; it helps make all of our institutions stronger.

I hope you enjoy this look at Wayne State University's past, and that it inspires a vision for the future of higher education. I also hope it leads to fruitful conversations about how we can continue these important collaborations to further knowledge and change the world.

I look forward to hearing from you.

M. Roy Wilson
President, Wayne State University