

Submitted by: Margaret E. Winters, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Informational Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Wayne State University College of Engineering faculty members have demonstrated a new configuration of Lithium-Sulfur (Li/S) battery that is a more powerful and less expensive alternative to commercially available lithium-ion batteries. The group recently published its findings in Nature's online, open-access journal, *Scientific Reports*. The primary advantages of the Li/S battery is that it can theoretically store five times more energy than the lithium-ion batteries that currently power several electric cars, including the Tesla S model. Though Li/S batteries have the potential to be the next generation of batteries, they have languished in research and development due to a host of practical limitations and bottlenecks that hinder full-scale development.

Educational Outreach continues its active engagement of its community college partners in Southeast Michigan. In March, staff from the Wayne State-University Center at Macomb (UCM) and personnel from Admissions, Financial Aid and other academic units hosted an open house at UCM to promote program offerings at Wayne State's Clinton Township site. In April, nearly 20 counselors from Henry Ford College (HFC) toured main campus and attended sessions focused on student success, including a Q & A panel with students who transferred from HFC to Wayne State. In late April, an open house at Schoolcraft College highlighted academic programs there followed by a Q & A session with potential students and parents.

Wayne State University, in collaboration with the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Public Library, has been selected as the host site for the state of Michigan for *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*, a national traveling exhibition of the Shakespeare First Folio, one of the world's most treasured books. The Folger Shakespeare Library, in partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, is touring a First Folio of Shakespeare in 2016 to all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. "We are especially pleased that this critical artifact of the European Renaissance will help facilitate a collaboration between three of the city's anchor institutions at Detroit's own moment of cultural and economic renaissance," said Ken Jackson, English professor and associate dean of the Wayne State Graduate School.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Stephen Ross, a world-class real estate developer, philanthropist and owner of the Miami Dolphins, visited his alma mater, Wayne State University Law School in early April. As part of the visit, Ross, Wayne Law class of 1965, participated in a question-and-answer session with Law School Dean Jocelyn Benson, discussing his career and accomplishments over the past 50 years. "We are thrilled to welcome Stephen Ross back to Wayne Law," Benson said. "In getting to know him as dean and through interviewing him for our magazine, I've seen how excited he is about his time at Wayne Law. We look forward to our students, alumni and the community getting to hear his thoughts from decades of experience in real estate development, the law, philanthropy and professional sports team ownership."

FACULTY

Angelique Day, assistant professor of social work at Wayne State University, has been named one of NerdScholar's '40 Under 40: Professors Who Inspire'. NerdScholar selected Day from a national pool of faculty who were nominated based on their ability to captivate and engage students, outstanding involvement on campus and in the community, and overwhelming passion for their subject matter. Nominations were collected through student, alumni and faculty recommendations following an open call to several hundred colleges and universities across the country. A member of the School of Social Work faculty since 2011, Day is also director of the university's Transition to Independence Program, which is designed to boost retention of WSU students aging out of foster care.

Cricket flour is a powder made of pulverized organic crickets and growing in popularity as a sustainable way to deliver protein. It's used in baked goods, power bars and protein shakes. In March, students from the Wayne State Department of Anthropology hosted a cricket flour bake-off at Detroit Farm and Garden. Assistant Professor Julie Lesnik asked her students to create sweet treats using cricket flour to shed light on the importance of the cultural significance of food. "It's just part of our way of exploring the potential of insects as food," she says. "We don't identify them as food here, but it's food all over the world for millions of people." She adds it's a more sustainable and ethical way to consume protein than traditional animals such as cows, pigs and chickens.

STUDENTS

Nearly 1,900 students representing more than 50 metro Detroit high schools converged upon the Wayne State campus on April 28th for Advanced Placement Day (AP Day), hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Irvin D. Reid Honors College and Undergraduate Admissions. AP Day is designed to reward students who have been enrolled in AP courses by giving them a glimpse into college life with sample lectures covering topics from American government to world history. Attendance at AP Day has grown over the years, with 1,390 attending in 2012 to approximately 1,900 this year.

Beginning fall 2015, Wayne State business students will have a new and powerful way to start building their network from their first day on campus through the Warriors Business Community Living Learning Community (WBC). All new students admitted to the WBC for fall 2015 will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the School of Business Administration. Located on the fourth floor of Ghafari Hall, the WBC will offer an opportunity for a cohort of freshman business students to live, learn and develop professional connections in the heart of Midtown Detroit.

During a week when many college students travel to warmer climes, 68 students from Wayne State spent spring break in Detroit making a difference. The students participated in a service-learning immersion program called Alternative Spring Break Detroit (ASBD), now in its 12th year. Participants volunteered at nonprofit organizations for four to five hours each day. They ate at culturally-themed restaurants each night, stayed in a downtown church and attended sessions that focus on education, crime and blight, arts and cultural awareness, and hunger and homelessness.