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Informational Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

High school students in Detroit now have the opportunity to receive guaranteed admission to Wayne State's School of Medicine. The new Wayne Med-Direct program assures acceptance into medical school and also covers the cost of both undergraduate and medical school tuition. The program is designed to be a pipeline for high-quality students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds with an interest in medicine. The only program of its kind in Michigan, Wayne Med-Direct will offer students a wide range of benefits including test preparation, access to state-of-the-art research facilities, and summer enrichment programs. "Incoming freshman who are admitted to the program will arrive on campus in the summer to participate in summer enrichment courses focused on chemistry, biology, physics and writing," said Ambika Mathur, dean of Wayne State's Graduate School and one of the architects of Wayne Med-Direct.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Low back pain, headaches, heart palpitations can be nagging, minor everyday health woes or indications of a serious condition. With so many advances in medical technology in recent decades, doctors and patients have scurried to get magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) testing to rule out worst case scenarios. However, a new physician-led movement is trying to change the way medical experts and the public think about medical testing and treatments. The goal is to slow the knee-jerk response to jump into a brain scanner or undergo complex and usually expensive diagnostic procedures. Dr. Safwan Badr, professor and chief of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at Harper University Hospital and Wayne State School of Medicine, told CBS News, "The first rule in medicine is do no harm." Badr said that applies both to the patient and the broader world of health care. "Draining precious resources with no benefit" is also a harm, he says.

Wayne State released its annual list of the year's top 10 words that deserve more frequent use in conversation and prose. Beginning its eighth year, the Word Warriors series promotes words worthy of retrieval from the linguistic cellar. "The English language has perhaps more words in its lexicon than any other," says Jerry Herron, dean of WSU's Irvin D. Reid Honors College and a member of the website's editorial board. "By making use of the repertoire available to us, we expand our ability to communicate clearly and help make our world a more interesting place. Bringing these words back into everyday conversation is just another way of broadening our horizons." The words topping this year's list include absquatulate, anathema, and delectation.

FACULTY

Wayne State anthropology professor Julie Lesnik is on a mission to change the negative perception surrounding termites as a food source as she studies how ancestral humans may have incorporated termites into their diets. Lesnik received a \$20,000 Leakey Foundation grant to study edible insects. She predicts that people may one day incorporate termites and other insects into their daily diets, noting how food sources are becoming less sustainable as the world's population edges closer to 8 billion. The idea of insect diets isn't that far-fetched, she said, adding that countries outside the U.S. see arthropods and other insects as a major source of protein.

Some modest planning and a few simple driving techniques can help you do better with day-to-day traffic woes, says Professor Joseph Hummer, chair of Wayne State's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. Hummer is a national expert on designing safe traffic flows, and he uses his experience to keep his own driving smooth. His top recommendation in his eight-point plan for safe driving is the avoidance of left turns in congested areas. He recommends turning right and circling the block to look for a place to make a U-turn. Hummer says you'll minimize your delay and cut your chances of a crash by an order of magnitude.

STUDENTS

Macomb Community College will use a \$300,000 grant to pinpoint how community college students can be successful once they transfer to a four-year college. The Kresge Foundation grant is part of a larger \$1.1 million effort from the foundation. While there are no four-year colleges in Macomb County, both Wayne State and Oakland University have satellite branches there. Leaders at both schools see Macomb as an untapped county for enrollment growth. Just 1 in 10 students from low-income families earn a bachelor's degree by age 25, compared to half of all people from higher income families, according to a 2014 White House report.

Eleven families, including 17 adults and eight children, had a warmer 2015 holiday season thanks to a donation drive supported by students, faculty, and staff of the Wayne State Law School. The goal to provide \$3,000 worth of goods to families was exceeded by \$2,850, or 49 percent, for a total of \$5,850. The Winter Wishes program, in its fourth year, has helped families who are clients of Wayne Law's legal clinics. Lauren Burnett, a social work intern in the clinic through the Wayne State master of social work program, led this year's drive. "I am truly moved by the generosity of the Wayne State Law School community," Burnett said. "Students, faculty and staff rallied around this cause, and their gifts will improve the winter months for 11 families."