

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

Informational Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Grape skin extract (GSE) may soon be the answer for treating diabetes. Preliminary studies by Wayne State researchers demonstrate that GSE exerts a novel inhibitory activity on hyperglycemia and could aid diabetes management. The research project recently received \$2.1 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to provide insights into enhancing existing treatments. “It is hopeful that our research may eventually lead to the successful development of a safe, targeted nutritional intervention to support diabetes prevention and treatment,” said Kequan Zhou, Ph.D., assistant professor of food and nutrition science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and lead investigator on the grant.

Wayne State University, in partnership with the University of Michigan and Drexel University, has launched a two-and-a-half-year study of the imagination — or *l’imaginaire* — of high-speed rail (HSR) in America. The study is part of a larger comparative international study piloted by Dr. Max Bergman at the University of Basel and led by French, American, South African, Indian and Chinese research teams to explore the role of the “imaginaries” as it relates to train and rail infrastructure. The study will examine what motivates decision makers and users to champion trains as a mode of transportation, and the future of transportation as a whole.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Wayne State University Law School’s state bar exam passage rate continues to climb with a 76 percent passage rate among graduates who took the exam in February 2014. This is six points higher than Wayne Law’s February 2013 passage rate of 70 percent and higher than this year’s state average of 64 percent. Wayne Law’s passage rate is six points higher than Michigan State University’s passage rate (70 percent) and second only to the University of Michigan’s (85 percent).

The Wayne State University Libraries are preparing for a soft launch of their new, custom-built digital collections platform in late May. The state-of-the-art platform will offer much faster loading speeds and access to higher resolution images while integrating the Libraries’ digital collections content and improving information discovery for researchers, educators and students. The platform currently hosts ten photographic and text collections, including the Herman Miller Consortium Collection, Lincoln Letters, Changing the Face of the Auto Industry, and Michigan Opera Theatre Performance Images. There are plans to add some

of the larger collections, including Virtual Motor City and Digital Dress, to the new platform later in 2014.

FACULTY

A 17-year-old Ukrainian university student underwent the first of three surgeries at the Kresge Eye Institute (KEI) in May to repair the area around his eye socket. The student came to Detroit with his brother in late March after being shot by Ukrainian special police in February during an anti-corruption protest. “We are fortunate that the Institute has broad expertise in ophthalmological specialties including the ability to address complex ocular trauma patients,” said Mark Juzych, M.D., KEI director and Department of Ophthalmology chair at Wayne State University School of Medicine. In this case, the physicians are providing their care pro bono as they do for patients from many countries and to local patients as well.

JP Morgan Chase's \$100 million dollar pledge to invest in the Detroit community follows a \$15 million investment by Goldman Sachs late last year. Robin Boyle, professor of urban studies and planning at Wayne State University, says the investments don't necessarily signal that Detroit is the new darling of Wall Street, but the funds could help the bankrupt city focus on the future, while city managers grapple with billions of dollars in debt.

STUDENTS

Students and faculty from Wayne State University's anthropology department took part in Corktown's annual Historic Home and Garden Tour on June 1st. The group discussed its ongoing excavation project at the historic neighborhood's Workers' Row House and presented artifacts unearthed during recent digs. The Workers' Row House is a working-class tenement built in 1849 that was home to generations of immigrants who traveled to Detroit seeking a better life. “This project has really revealed the way of life for many working-class families in 19th century Detroit,” says Tom Killion, anthropology professor and director of the Workers' Row House project.

After four years of intense study and clinical rotations, 270 men and women who make up the Wayne State University School of Medicine Class of 2014 earned the title of doctor of Medicine on May 19th at the Fox Theatre. Of these graduates, 56.7 percent will begin their residencies in Michigan next month. This is positive news for a state with a projected physician shortage. Studies show that medical residents who train in Michigan overwhelmingly remain here to practice and serve the state's communities.