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## Informational Report

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Dr. Craig Spencer's daily patient load would reach 30 or more while volunteering for Doctors without Borders in Ebola-stricken Guinea. "No one would let me do that in the United States," he said, of his hospital assignment in New York. In contrast, when the 33-year-old became an Ebola patient fighting the deadly virus a month later, he was treated by a team of nearly 30 health care professionals in New York City. Speaking to a capacity crowd of more than 250 in Scott Hall in February, the 2008 School of Medicine graduate shared that disparity and other lessons, observations and experiences as a provider-turned-patient at the center of the still-raging Ebola epidemic in western Africa.

Human trafficking is a \$32 billion per year industry, making people the second largest illegal commodity on the planet, behind drugs. However, labeling human trafficking as a global problem can send the message that it is not happening in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in the U.S. and in Michigan. To raise awareness, the WSU President's Commission on the Status of Women presented a panel of legal and social work experts, including Blanche Cook, assistant professor at Wayne State University Law School and previously an assistant U.S. attorney specializing in human trafficking cases.

More than 1,000 students attended five Scholars Days events held November through February to compete for scholarships and a place in the Class of 2019. University units including Enrollment Management (Admissions, Financial Aid, etc.), the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and Marketing and Communications work together to host these high-achieving students and their parents. The day includes a writing component, a small group interview, an academic resource fair, and campus tours and lunch.

### **SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

Wayne State University Law School has been recognized by *The National Jurist* magazine as one of the best law schools in the nation for practical training. The publication's March print issue features 86 schools which made the list. Schools were chosen by criteria including the number of full-time students who take simulation courses, externships, clinics or those who participate in interschool skills competitions. As of 2013, all WSU law students are required to take a minimum of six credits that offer substantial instruction in professional skills beyond the traditional legal classroom.

Abraham Lincoln remains one of our nation's most popular presidents, and Wayne State is showcasing its large collection of Civil War- and Lincoln-related

books and artifacts in the University Libraries Special Collections. The collection's non-book portion includes a locket containing a lock of Lincoln's hair along with an affidavit of authenticity, a bloodied piece of bunting from the theatre box where Lincoln was assassinated, and an invitation to one of Lincoln's inaugural balls in 1861; and a number of letters written to and from Lincoln.

## **FACULTY**

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has been a recognized condition in combat veterans since 1983. Women make up 17 percent of the U.S. armed forces, and since 2001, 280,000 women in the military have been deployed for tours of duty in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Yet, there is a lack of knowledge about PTSD in female combat veterans. Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience Deane Aikins is working to change that with a study of PTSD in female veterans in Michigan. He uses a combination of reliving a stressful scenario with an extremely limited use of beta blockers to train the body to reduce the physical reaction to traumatic memories

Wayne State Professor of Geology Sarah Jo Brownlee has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award, the foundation's most prestigious accolade for up-and-coming young faculty members. Brownlee, who joined the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2011, received the grant totaling more than \$520,000. "This award is a tremendous confidence boost," Brownlee said. "It's great to know that not only does the NSF believe in my research, but they're willing to back me up on it."

## **STUDENTS**

Detroit Lions running back Joique Bell rushed for 860 yards and seven touchdowns last season. He's poised for another big year in 2015, but he told students at Allen Park Middle School in February: football is not forever. That's why Bell has a game plan for when his playing days are over: He's getting his master's degree in sports administration at his alma mater, Wayne State." After talking to a few players and coaches, you know, networking around, I thought it would be beneficial to go back and get my second degree," Bell said.