2015 Dodge Viper SRT Awarded Collectible Vehicle of Future

The National Automotive History Collection (NAHC) has selected Fiat Chrysler's 2015 Dodge Viper SRT as its "Collectible Vehicle of the Future" for 2016.

VOL. 84 NO. 31

Members of the NAHC Board of

Trustees annually choose the "Collectible Vehicle of the Future" from North American-built vehicles introduced during the previous calendar year, said NAHC spokesman Larry Weis.

The latest generation of the iconic sports car was selected from new vehicles introduced in 2015, Weis said. This year's award was presented by Richard Kollins, chairman of the NAHC board and Chuck Patton, a board Dodge Viper in 2007 and the SRT member.

The Viper has won the NAHC award four times since 2003, Weis said. The NAHC honored the Chrysler Viper in 2003, the

(Street and Racing Technology) Viper in 2013.

The new generation of the

info@detroitautoscene.com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Detroit Auto Scene

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AUGUST 15, 2016



2017 Chevy Camaro ZL1

New Camaros Join Cruise

Woodward Dream Cruise can look forward to seeing something new.

Chevrolet will show off two new Camaros - the 2017 Camaro ZL1 and Camaro 1LE - in the Dream Cruise's Chevy display at Woodward and Old Woodward

The 2017 ZL1, said spokesman Ron Kiino, is the most powerful production Camaro ever, and both the trackbred 1LE and the ZL1 are designed to deliver top performance on both the open road and the road course.

When they go on sale later this year, Klino said, the 2017 Camaro ZL1 will be priced at \$62,135 for coupe models and \$69,135 for convertibles.

The 1LE package is a \$4,500 MSRP option on Camaro V6 LT coupe models and \$6,500 on the V8 1SS coupe model.

For LT coupes, the 1LE package features the Camaro SS's FE3 suspension, while the 1SS uses the ZL1's electronic limited-slip differential and FE4 suspension with Magnetic Ride

"The Camaro ZL1 offers supercar performance with dailydriver refinement, a combination that stacks up against any other sports coupe - at any price - around the world," said

Camaro fans at the upcoming Steve Majoros, Chevrolet Marketing director.

"The new 1LE packages expand the performance envelope of the Camaro SS and, for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GM Powertrain Employees Show Off Cars

The sun was blazing and the Jeff Herman, who is a technician time to let the Corvette go, so in temps were high for the 15th annual employee car show at GM's Powertrain World Headquarters in Pontiac Aug. 12.

The theme of this year's show was diesel power.

The event, said GM spokesman Tom Read, allows employees, both past and present, at the GM Powertrain World Headquarters to celebrate the company's automotive heritage.

And, Read said, two race car drivers had the opportunity to view where GM makes their race engines at the new GM Powertrain Performance and Racing Center, which opened up this February.

As to the employee auto show, Read said it gives people who spend all day helping produce cars the chance to show off their own pieces of Detroit's automotive history.

But a hot GM car doesn't have to be old to be a classic. Just ask at the Powertrain headquarters.

"I owned a 1971 Corvette for 27 years," Herman said. "I got rid of it a couple of years ago because toward the end it was giving me fits. My wife Lynn thought it was so unsafe that she wouldn't even ride in it anymore. I knew it was

2014 I bought a Chevy Camaro SS. I realized there's nothing wrong with owning a car that had air conditioning and a modern suspension system."

Herman said that even though

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



GM employee Jeff Herman rebadged his 2014 Camaro SS as a Z-21.



Lining up for the start of showcase festivals across the country - and Canada - are these Jeep 75th Anniversary edition vehicles.

From Monterey to British Columbia, It's All Jeep

hicles at festivals across the country this August.

Jeep will be at an event in Candada and Alfa Romeo will be

Call it fishing where the fish showing off in California.

Jeep will be at the Crankworx The event is held at Whistler biking, bringing together the Mountain in British Columbia, world's top downhill, slopestyle Canada, said Fiat Chrysler and endurance riders with

year Jeep has been a sponsor. celebration of gravity mountain ends on Aug. 21.

spokeswoman LouAnn Gosselin. 135,000 fans for a week of jam-It's the largest such event in packed competition, concerts Fiat Chrysler is showcasing mountain biking festival as a North America, Gosselin said. and that "one-of-a-kind Whistler some of the company's latest ve- Gold Level sponsor, the sixth Crankworx is the 10-day, defining culture." It began on Aug. 12 and

"As the Jeep brand marks its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



This rendering shows how the CASEE lab will lay out.

\$1 Million Donation Helps Build UDM Center

University of Detroit Mercy's new Center for Automotive Systems Engineering Education (CASEE) has received a major boost with a \$1 million gift from William L. Kozyra (Class of 1980), said school spokesman John Powell.

The 5,200-square-foot Center, which opens this month when students start back to school, is designed to foster student teamwork on collaborative projects, including competitive vehicle design, robotics and autonomous vehicle development, Powell

It will also allow undergradu-

ate and graduate students to participate in faculty-mentored research projects, Kuleck said.

Additional funding came from corporations, foundations and University of Detroit Mercy alum-

The University will have an official dedication on Sept. 30, 2016, as part of Detroit Mercy's Homecoming weekend.

"The Center represents a new chapter in the 105-year history of the College of Engineering & Science at Detroit Mercy," Kuleck said. "Preparation of students for professional careers has always been the principal focus of the

University's engineering programs, but this center is a bold, innovative step forward.

"The creation of this state-ofthe-art experiential learning facility will further expand opportunities for student engagement. CASEE introduces our undergraduate students to the vital area of systems engineering to better prepare them for the complexity of engineering projects and design at the earliest stages of their careers."

The University has partnered with Ford Motor Co., GM Corp.,

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2017 Camaro ZL1 To Hit Showrooms Later This Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Oppenheiser, Camaro chief engineer.

"You'll be hard-pressed to find more track-capable cars in their respective classes."

ZL1 specs:

- 0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds;
- Quarter-mile in 11.4 seconds at 127 mph:
- 1.02 g max cornering;
- 60-0 mph braking in 107 feet (32 meters);
- 220-pound weight reduction;
 650-horsepower Camaro supercharged LT4 6.2L V8 horse-

power engine.

The Camaro ZL1 performance numbers are achieved with a coupe equipped with the available 10-speed automatic transmission and using original-equipment tires on a non-prepped sur-

face.
1LE specs:

- 0-60 mph in 5.2 seconds with Camaro LT 1LE;
- 0-60 mph in 4.2 seconds with Camaro SS 1LE;
- 0.97 g max cornering with Camaro LT 1LE;
- 1.02 g max cornering with Camaro SS 1LE;
- 60-0 mph braking in 112 feet with the Camaro LT 1LE version of the vehicle.
- 60-0 mph braking in 107 feet with Camaro SS 1LE;
- 230-pound weight reduction (compares the SS 1LE to previous model).

Jeep, Fiat Go to Where Buyers Are Congregating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

75th Anniversary in 2016, we're thrilled to be back supporting Crankworx," said Bill Levasseur, vice president of Marketing, FCA Canada.

"Part of the Jeep DNA is derived from its prowess for rugged, outdoor adventure, which fits perfectly with this famous B.C. mountain biking event. Also, Crankworx has gone global with events in France and New Zealand, a great reflection of Jeep's success on the world stage."

Jeep is a key partner in and around the event with a variety of activations and displays, Gosselin said. The brand will again be in Whistler's Skier's Plaza with a two-level display topped by the exclusive Jeep Viewing Lounge. Jeep will also have five displays throughout Whistler Village featuring 75th Anniversary Edition and other 2016 models for fans to check out.

"This isn't our first year," Gosselin said. "This event is a good fit for Jeep because it is attended by like-minded consumers who are interested in the kinds of vehicles that Jeep sells."

The 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia premium sport sedan will be on display at the Monterey Car Week (MCW) festival, which takes place in Monterey, Calif., Aug. 17-21.

Building on the momentum that began with the 4C Launch Edition, which made its debut at the 2014 MCW festival, the 2017 Giulia will be featured at the McCalls Motorworks Revival, which will be held at the Monterey Jet Center on Aug. 17.

"Monterey Car Week is the pinnacle of automotive enthusiast
events in North America, providing Alfa Romeo with the perfect
opportunity to further showcase
our all-new 2017 Giulia sport
sedans, highlight our rich racing
and Italian design heritage, plus
offer consumers ride-and-drive
opportunities of our handcrafted
4C Spider around the picturesque Monterey Peninsula for
the ultimate driving experience,"
said Alfa Romeo's Jiyan Cadiz.

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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" **AUGUST 15, 2016**

GM Powertrain Employees Show Off Cars at Annual Event

his Camaro is only a couple of years old, he's still put a lot of work into the vehicle.

"It's an SS, but I've rebadged it, so people looking at the car will see the markings of a Z28," Herman said. "I have to say that this is not my civilian car. I try to get it out on the street about once a week, but sometimes you don't have the time."

For retired GM test driver John Eaton, who helped test vehicles at the Milford Proving Ground, the Pontiac show gives him the chance to show off an unusual piece of automotive history -1981 DeLorean.

"I've owned my DeLorean since 1982," Eaton said. "It's a nice car and it still gets a lot of looks even to this day. To be honest, I have to give credit to the movie, 'Back to the Future,' for that. I hear a lot of time travel jokes from peo-

Eaton said that one of the benefits of owning a DeLorean is that the vehicle is easy to maintain.

"It has a stainless steel body," Eaton said. "That means to clean it up I only need to get some liquid dish soap to wash the body. What can be easier than that?"

Eaton said he keeps the car ready to drive, but even after 34 years, he's only put about 20,000 miles on the vehicle.

have a GMC pickup," Eaton said. "This car only goes out on special occasions.'

The two racers - Simon Pagenaud, an IndyCar Series driver for Team Penske, and Tom Milner, a driver for GM's Corvette Racing Team - were given a tour of the Racing Center facility and had the chance to see how their respective engines are made.

Pagenaud, who is currently the leader of the Verizon Indy Car Series with four wins and six poles, talked a little bit about being able to see where it all begins.

"It's awesome to be here," Pagenaud said. "This year I have four wins in the Indy Series, so it's so far, so good. It's been an incredible year for us."

Pagenaud praised the improvement in engine technology.

"The improvements being made in aerodynamics and powertrains are incredible," Pagenaud said. "We are gaining an additional 40 horsepower every year while maintaining the same displacement. That's amazing. I'm here to see the new technology. I've never been here before, so it's exciting to see the place where they make things happen on the race track."

When asked what improvement in technology has impressed him the most, Pagenaud said it had to be the latest turbo

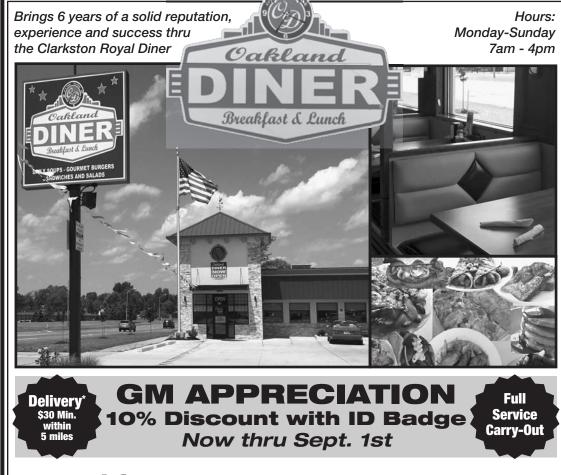
engines. He noted that driving a modern turbo engine is not that different from driving a traditional engine because engineers have been able to make turbo shifts to the point that it's often difficult to tell when gears are shifting.

the past," Pagenaud said.

Read said having two famous and successful race car drivers at the Powertrain World Headquarters the same day as the employee car show gave the people

"That's quite a change from at headquarters the opportunity to meet and talk with people who are able to use the latest powertrain technology at the highest levels of operation.

"That's quite an honor," Read



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GM's Boler-Davis to Chair Capuchin Kitchen Event

vice president of Global Manufacturing for General Motors, will chair the 2016 SOCK dinner (Support Our Capuchin Kitchen) for the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

The SOCK event is the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's largest annual fundraiser and will take place Friday, Oct. 21, at Cobo Center's Grand Riverview Ballroom, Detroit, said Capuchin spokeswoman Colleen Crane.

Boler-Davis has been recognized by numerous organizations and publications for her professional accomplishments and community service, Crane said.

"She is passionate about volunteering and supporting organizations that help advance the lives of children, create economic empowerment, and promote education, human rights, and careers in science and technolo-' Crane said.

"On behalf of General Motors, it is an honor to chair the 2016 Annual SOCK Dinner," said Boler-Davis. "The Soup Kitchen's philosophy of individual empowerment - through its meal program, urban farm, bakery, substance-abuse program and particularly its children's program is as important to our community as it is to the individuals it serves. I look forward to working with Brother Jerry, the SOCK committee and so many others to make this year's event the best one ever.'

"Hundreds of people a day are served at our six service sites which provide food for the body, nourishment for the soul, and stimulation for the mind," Brother Jerry Smith, Capuchin Soup Kitchen executive director, explained.

'We are grateful to GM and Ms. Boler-Davis for their support of this work over all these years."

Tickets to the 44th annual SOCK event are \$250 per person

Alicia Boler-Davis, executive and include dinner, cocktails, musical entertainment, silent auction, and the Second Helping Afterglow event, Crane said.

> To order, call 313-579-2100, ext. or order online at www.CSKDetroit.org/sock.

> Crane said the Soup Kitchen was founded in 1929 and serves Metro Detroit by providing food, clothing, and human development programs to the people of the community. In addition to preparing and serving up to 2,000 meals a day, it operates a shower program, emergency food pantry, and a tutoring and art therapy program for children.

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Viper Earns Place In Automotive **History Books**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

iconic American-built supercar returned in 2015 with the Dodge Viper SRT as the brand's flagship performance machine, Weis said. Powered by an all-aluminum 8.4-liter mid-front V10 engine, the 2015 Dodge Viper SRT delivers 645 horsepower and 600 lb.-ft. of torque – the most torque of any naturally aspirated sports-car engine in the world.

The unique "cam-within-acam" design allows a cleaner exhaust, improved fuel economy and better engine smoothness, Weis said.

The NAHC Board of Trustees provides funding to the NAHC, which is a special collection of the Detroit Public Library, Weis said. With more than 600,000 documents, it is the world's most extensive public archive of automotive information.

Located in the Detroit Public Library's Rose and Robert Skillman Branch at 121 Gratiot Avenue in downtown Detroit, the NAHC is open to the public by invitation and serves automotive journalists, authors, collectors and enthusiasts, Weis said.

Its collections include more than 600,000 items including books, magazine documents, business papers, photos, sales brochures, service manuals and engineering specifications, Weis said.

More than 40,000 photos from the NAHC are available online. Access to historical photos is available on the library's website at: http://digitalcollections.detroitpubliclibrary.org.

Dodge Charger Proves Fast at NHRA Nationals

Rain curtailed the action just before the final round at the 29th annual NHRA Northwest Nationals on Aug. 7 near Seattle, but the wet weather certainly did not dampen the spirits of Ron Capps and his Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car crew. Capps, competing out of the Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) stable, methodically knocked out everyone in his way en route to his eighth final round of the season and 98th of his storied career before Mother Nature got her way and the final round was delayed to be completed at the next event on the schedule, the NHRA Nationals in Brainerd, Minn., Aug. 19-21.

"I feel bad for the fans who saw three great days of racing before today got hit by a few showers," said Capps.

Capps, the No. 2 qualifier on a 3.843-second pass that was the second quickest run in NHRA Funny Car history, raced newcomer Brandon Welch in the first round of eliminations. Capps was first off the starting line and clocked a clean 3.856 at 330.23 mph - the seventh-quickest pass ever - in an easy victory over his troubled opponent.

The second round paired Capps with DSR teammate Tommy Johnson Jr. and the Make-A-Wish branded Dodge Charger R/T. Johnson was off the line first, but Capps closed the gap for a narrow 3.865/328.62 win over a 3.899/320.58.

On the other side of the ladder, DSR teammates Matt Hagan in the Mopar Express Lane Dodge Charger and Infinite Hero campaigner Jack Beckman squared off. When Beckman fouled out at the starting line, Hagan surged ahead and sealed the deal with a 3.903/299.80.

"We made huge leaps and bounds this weekend," said Hagan.



The 2016 Buick Avista

'Concept Car of Year' Award Goes to Buick's 2016 Avista

Buick, since the days of Harley Earl, has had a reputation for elegance, so the recent news about the Buick Avista shouldn't come as that much of a surprise.

The Buick Avista received the 2016 Concept Car of the Year and the Most Significant Concept Vehicle of the Year at the 2016 North American Concept Vehicle Awards ceremony last month at the Concours d'Elegance of America in Plymouth, said Buick spokesman Stuart Fowle.

The awards recognize the vehicle that makes the strongest impact in terms of automotive design, engineering and market responsiveness.

"The Avista is both an indicator of Buick's future design direction and a celebration of its design heritage," Fowle deep

"The design process of the Avista," said Bryan Nesbitt, Buick's Global Design executive director, "brought the team together to unite around a future direction for the brand and the great teamwork and enthusiasm it generated.

"While looking to the future," said, "we also wanted honor the rich heritage of Buick by integrating timeless design cues in this beautifully progressive concept vehicle."

Judges praised the Avista's interior and intuitive design, with Detroit Free Press auto critic Mark Phelan saying the vehicle "cements Buick's surprising status as one of the auto industry's most intriguing brands."

The Avista's cabin is defined by gliding, seamless lines melded with leather and aluminum details, Nesbitt said. The latest connected technology is accessible through touchscreens on the instrument panel and the floating center console.

Following its introduction at the 2016 North American International Auto Show, the Avista also received the EyesOn Design Excellence Award and was named "Best Future Concept" by *Detroit* News readers.

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CHEVROLET A 36 month leases. Impaia and Camaro are 39 month leases. Pricing is subject to select model vehicles, while supplies last. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of active GM Employee Discount (Unless otherwise stated). Pricing is subject to select model vehicles while supplies last. All leases are 10k miles per year w/ approved S Tier credit w/ \$999 due at signing.

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Autonomous Bolts Hit the Roads In Scottsdale

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors and its autonomous technology company Cruise Automation are testing self-driving cars on the streets of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Testing of self-driving electric Chevrolet Bolts began in Arizona about two weeks ago.

It's the second city for GM's real-world tests. Autonomous Bolts with Cruise Automation software have been driving around San Francisco since May 20.

GM spokesman Kevin Kelly said the company is considering other cities for tests but wasn't ready to announce locations.

He would not say how many Bolts are being tested. Although the cars drive autonomously, Kelly says they all have human backup drivers.

GM acquired San Franciscobased Cruise Automation in March for \$581 million in cash and GM stock. Kelly says the company has opened an office in Scottsdale.

Lear Renames Its Electrical **Business Segment**

Electrical segment at Lear Corporation being renamed "E-Systems" business segment.

The name change, said Lear spokesman Mel Stephens, is intended to reflect the increasing complexity of automotive electrical systems and Lear's expanded electrical architecture and vehicle connectivity capabilities.

Products by the Southfield-based supplier of automotive seating and electrical systems, Stephens said, help in the managing of electric power and distributing signals within a vehicle for both traditional electrical architectures and alternative energy vehicles.

Lear's E-Systems portfolio consists of wire harnesses, terminals & connectors, complex electronic modules, power converters and inverters, battery chargers, 48-volt systems, wireless capabilities, software, cybersecurity, lighting modules and audio components.

Stephens said Lear was a pioneer in Smart Junction Box technology, and today is a leader in connected gateway modules which facilitate secure processing of all of a vehicle's electrical, electronic and data requirements.

And as a part of the company's efforts to stay on top in this segment, Stephens said, Lear recently acquired Arada Systems and intellectual property and technology from Autonet Mobile, adding software and hardware capabilities that securely connect vehicle electrical systems to networks and devices outside the vehicle.

With these enhanced capabilities, Lear now has the ability to process signals and data both within the vehicle and outside the vehicle, Stephens said.

"Lear has a long history of providing industry-leading automotive electrical distribution systems," said Matt Simoncini, Lear's president and chief executive officer.

"Today, we are uniquely positioned with complete electrical architecture expertise and signal and data management capabilities, including connected gateways, wireless capabilities and related software and hardware. With 21 first-to-market innovations in the last four years and over 600 software engineers globally, we are well positioned to capitalize on the megatrend of vehicle connectivity.

Rev. Jesse Jackson: Need to **Revisit Ethnic Opportunities**

The Rainbow PUSH Automotive Project, an initiative of the Citizenship Education Fund, will hold the 17th Annual Rainbow **PUSH Global Automotive Summit** on Friday, Sept. 30, at the MGM Grand Detroit Meeting and Events Center in Detroit.

"As groups served by inclusion, initiatives have grown, the dollars allocated have not and African Americans are increasingly shut out of growth opportunities," remarked Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coali-

"Emerging from the recession, we have witnessed the erosion of ethnic media, advertising agencies, suppliers, dealers and a shrinking ethnic employee base. During this year's Global Automotive Summit, we will PUSH the reset button.

"We will examine the diversity commitments we share to ensure they are meeting their original intent - to correct historic exclusion and to close opportunity gaps.'

The Rainbow PUSH Global Automotive Summit is the only forum that addresses the automotive industry in relation to people of color, said PUSH spokesman John Graves.

Each year, more than 500 automotive executives, entrepreneurs, suppliers, dealers, consumers, government and elected officials, advertising agencies, automotive manufacturers and media outlets from across the automotive spectrum participate in discussions focused on improving inclusion for ethnic minorities in the automotive industry.

The theme for this year's conference is Refocusing Diversity

on Ethnic Minority Growth highlighting the inconsistency between the inclusion we envision and what is practiced, Graves said.

According to research, said Graves, more than one-third of vehicles are purchased by ethnic buyers each year.

As of 2015, half of public school children have ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, all of the prime labor force (18-64) growth will come from ethnic populations.

"As our country's population and workforce composition changes, these shifts require a rethinking of what constitutes ethnic participation," Graves

"During the Global Automotive Summit, attendees will participate in discussions with automotive executives, industry experts and researchers.

Throughout the day, speakers will share data, trends and strategies to thrive in the automotive marketplace.

Some topics of the conference include:

- Reversing the Decline of Minority Suppliers;
- Talent Pipeline Readiness for the New Majority Workforce; Race and Reform in Advertising and Media Buying;
- Automotive Industry Disruptors Provide New Opportunities for Minority Suppliers;
- Professional Services Inclu-
- Next-Gen Auto Dealers Step Up; and Business Women Thinking Outside the Box.

For more information about the Summit and to register for the event, visit www.automotiveproject.org.







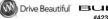
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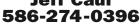
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\$1 Million Gift **Helps to Build New U-D Center**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DENSO North America Foundation and many others to equip the Center with cutting-edge technologies that students will use for research and design work, Powell said. The Center will be embedded into a reimagining of the engineering curriculum, he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that today I have a fabulous career and life as a result of the great education I received at University of Detroit Mercy," Kozyra said. "I'm lucky enough to be in a position where I can thank the school and help the school provide to other young adults the educational opportunities and the life opportunities I received."

Kozyra, Powell said, is the chairman, chief executive officer and president of Auburn Hillsbased TI Automotive, an automotive supplier with more than 125 locations in 28 countries.

"This gift is an important and significant investment in the future of the University and the type of education Kozyra believes the University will provide for tomorrow's engineers," said Dean of the College of Engineering & Science Gary Kuleck.

'We are very thankful to Bill Kozyra for his generous donation to Detroit Mercy," said University President Antoine M. Garibaldi. "His gift will not only advance our engineering program's tradition of academic excellence, but also prepare our students for the kinds of leadership roles he has held in his

ZF North America **Problem Forces** Chrysler Recall

DETROIT (AP) - Automotive parts supplier ZF North America. which maintains its headquarters in Northville, is recalling 505,000 control sensors in the U.S. because they can make some nine-speed transmissions shift into neutral without warn-

The company says in government documents that the transmissions were sold to several automakers that will issue their own recalls.

But the only automaker identified so far was Fiat Chrysler, which discovered the problem and reported it to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ZF says a star-shaped connector on a wiring harness wasn't crimped properly. That can increase electrical resistance that can shift the transmission into neutral

The problem came to light in July when Fiat Chrysler recalled more than 323,000 U.S. vehicles to fix the problem.

The Fiat Chrysler recall covered certain Chrysler 200 midsize sedans and Ram ProMaster City small vans.

The recall also covers Jeep Renegade and Cherokee Sport Utility Vehicles from the 2015 model year.

Some 2014 Cherokees are covered as well.

ZF North America says that a software update will fix the prob-

The company is working with safety regulators and has identified models that may be affected by the defect.

But those weren't available at press time, a ZF North America spokesman said.

ZF North America is not aware of any injuries caused by the problem, a company spokesman said in a recent statement to the media.