Author to discuss role of women in Islamic faith

By Jeffrey Romagni

In order to fill the Islamic obligation known as hajj, each year more than two million Muslim men and women from all over the world travel to the city of Mecca, the holiest meeting site of the Islamic religion, to demonstrate religious harmony and their submission to Allah.

Faced with a new life as a single mother, Asra Nomani, author and then Wall Street Journal correspondent, made the dangerous journey from America to the Middle East in efforts to investigate and rediscover her religion.

Inspired by her personal pilgrimage, Nomani returned to America to confront religious sexism and intolerance and to fight for the rights of modern Muslim women.

Nomani will discuss and sign her book, Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman’s Struggle for the Soul of Islam, Thursday, Oct. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. in The University of Toledo Law Center Auditorium on Main Campus.

In her book, Nomani explains that many religious freedoms enjoyed centuries ago have been replaced today by the conservative brand of Islam, which labels Muslim women as veiled and isolated from the world. Through personal narrative, Nomani compares the modern-day lives of Muslim women to the lives of...
UT offers savings accounts, road map to college

Unfortunately, many people give up the dream of going to college at a young age because they don’t think their family would be able to afford it.

The University of Toledo has developed an innovative new program that reinforces the concept that college can be a reality for students willing to work for it.

UT’s newly Scholarship Accounts Program will make annual deposits of $2,500 into individual student scholarship accounts beginning with the successful completion of the eighth grade and for completion of each successive year of high school. The first deposit will be made in June 2010. Upon graduation from high school, a student may have accumulated a maximum of $10,000 through the Scholarly Savings Program that can be used toward tuition at UT. The scholarship funds will be disbursed in annual increments of $2,500.

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“I have no idea that this is possible,” Jacobs said. “But it’s a route of spirit. And it is a route to which we are called by the reason of who we are. We are not OK. We are struggling, we are working hard, but we will prevail and we will continue to keep our eye on the ball.”

Gold said UTMC’s financial challenges fall into various categories, but are primarily driven by a marked increase in the amount of uncompensated care taking place in the hospital.

“That is to say, some patients come here with serious medical problems. But they have little or no ability to pay for that care,” Gold said. “And they don’t have some of the types of health insurance coverage or other assurances.”

Another challenge, Gold said, was the quick growth of inpatient care, which is a break-even or money-losing venture for hospitals. Discharge care grows in slow motion, he said; because patients defer procedures requiring longer stays, elective operations, and other important tests and diagnostics.

Gold said the list of cost-saving initiatives aimed at combating these financial issues was too long to mention. Included on the list of initiatives is the announcement reduction in work force, negotiations with and consolidation of vendor contracts, controls for the use of high-cost medications, recruiting nurses, reducing nursing time, encouraging in-occurrence dialogue about the role of women in the military. UTMC has shown that one of the first steps the role change is in any community to dialogue.”

For more information, contact the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women at 419-537-5030.

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More benefits forums scheduled through November

By Kim Harvey

Additional education programs have been scheduled in response to faculty and employee interest as the benefits open enrollment period continues.

Some previously scheduled programs have been moved to accommodate large numbers of participants as well.

The updated schedule of programs on Health Science, Main and Scott Park campuses is listed below:

- Monday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m., Nitschke Hall Auditorium, and 2 p.m., Student Recreation Center Oak Room;
- Tuesday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m., Health Education Building Room 105;
- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m., Scott Park Student Center Auditorium, and 2 p.m., Health Education Building Room 105;
- Thursday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m., Student Union Room 2592;
- Monday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m., Health Education Building Room 105;
- Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m., Nitschke Hall Auditorium;
- Wednesday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m., Student Union Ingman Room; and
- Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:30 a.m., Health Education Building Room 105.

Open enrollment continues through Friday, Nov. 13.

All employees must re-enroll by completing enrollment forms and bringing them to HR, whether they elect to make changes in 2010 benefits choices or not, to ensure their coverage continues after Dec. 31.

Forms have been posted on HR’s Web site at http://hr.utoledo.edu. Employees who do not have access to computers may pick up enrollment packets in HR, which is located in the Transportation Center on Main Campus and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Employees who have questions following the educational programs may e-mail benefits@utoledo.edu with specific inquiries. HR personnel will respond within 48 hours.

O.A.R. to rock UT Savage Arena Nov. 3

When classes start, O.A.R. heads back to campus.

“Usually every fall and spring, we go out and [play] colleges, and that’s something that we really enjoy doing because that’s where we cut our teeth and that’s where we got our start,” said saxophonist Jerry DePizzo.

It was in Columbus, Ohio, where O.A.R. (Of A Revolution) started building its fan base and its reputation as a live band. Singer-guitarist Marc Roberge, guitarist Richard On, drummer Chris Culos and bass player Benj Gershman graduated from high school in Rockville, Md., and decided to go to Ohio State University, where DePizzo was taking classes.

“There was always a special spark about O.A.R.,” DePizzo said during a phone interview from his Columbus home. “I was O.A.R.’s biggest fan, then I got to be in the band.”

The sax man joined in 2000. Since then, the group that mixes rock and reggae has recorded five studio releases and three live discs.

With 2008’s “All Sides,” the quintet achieved mainstream success, thanks to the hits “Shattered (Turn the Car Around)” and “This Town.”

DePizzo talked about recording the disc with producer Mat Wallace, known for his work with Maroon 5 and The Replacements.

“Mat Wallace did a great job. He was a great fit for us. He brought a blue-collar work ethic to the table,” DePizzo said. “We just threw material at him, and he sifted through it to pick out the things that worked. That made the record better.

“We knew we were going to have some radio-friendly stuff, that’s where you have your ‘Shattered’ and your ‘One Day’ and ‘This Town,’” DePizzo continued. “We wanted to make stuff where people would debate which is the best song. We wanted to make album tracks that had no shot of being on the radio like ‘War Song’ or ‘Whatever Happened.’”

The band just finished mixing a live, four-disc set recorded over two nights in Chicago.

“It’s a great representation of where the band is right now,” DePizzo said of the forthcoming release. “It’s almost like a greatest hits album because it spans so much material. We’re really proud of it and really excited for people to hear it.”

O.A.R. will play at The University of Toledo Savage Arena Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. Elmwood will open the show. Tickets are $27.50 for the public, $17.50 for UT students with ID and $32.50 day of the show.

For more information, contact the UT Savage Arena Ticket Office at 419.530.4653.

SHAPING UP: Construction continues on the Fetterman Training Center; a multipurpose athletics practice facility that will be connected to Savage Arena. Longtime UT supporters Hal and Susan Fetterman committed $1 million for the facility, which, when finished in January, will feature a 100-yard Field Turf playing surface, a regulation basketball court, sprinting lanes, a long jump pit, a golf practice area and new locker rooms.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TO END

Don’t forget to turn clocks back one hour Sunday, Nov. 1.