Fetterman Training Center dedication set for Feb. 6

By Paul Helgren

The dedication ceremony for the Fetterman Training Center, The University of Toledo’s new indoor multi-use athletics facility, will take place Saturday, Feb. 6, at 6:20 p.m.

The ceremony will precede the men’s basketball game vs. Buffalo at 7 p.m.

Fans holding tickets for the game will have the opportunity to tour the new facility from 5:30 to 6:20 p.m., when a brief dedication ceremony will take place at midfield of the indoor practice field. Featured speakers will include President Lloyd Jacobs, Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien, Head Football Coach Tim Beckman and senior football player Kevin Kowalski.

The Fetterman Training Center is expected to be ready for use by mid-February. When finished, the 90,400-square-foot facility will feature a 100-yard FieldTurf playing surface, a regulation basketball/volleyball court, sprinting lanes and a long-jump pit for track, a golf practice area and new golf locker rooms.

As part of the project, improvements also will be made to the adjacent UT outdoor track, including new permanent bleacher seating, a press box and elevated viewing platforms.

The Fetterman Training Center will be used by UT’s 16 varsity sports. The building is named for Hal and Susan Fetterman, who committed $1 million for the facility.

“We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Hal and Susan Fetterman,” Jacobs said.

Workers installed FieldTurf last week for the 100-yard playing surface in the Fetterman Training Center.

Women’s forum to expand leadership to Health Science Campus

By Kim Harvey

A n organization dedicated to identifying the concerns of women within the UT community will hold a general meeting Friday, Jan. 29, with the purpose of expanding the group to include elected leaders from Health Science Campus.

The Women’s Leadership Forum was created in 2005 on Main Campus; it currently has a governing council of 16 members who represent faculty, staff and students. Its smaller counterpart on Health Science Campus, the Women’s Program Initiative, formed in 2007 with similar goals of advocating for women; its advisory committee of about 17 members plans programs.

The goal, according to Dr. Nancy Collins, a faculty member in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology and chair of the Women’s Program Initiative, is to replicate the Women’s Leadership Forum structure on Health Science Campus and to create a unified group with equal representation from both campuses. The group will meet once per semester with provosts from each campus.

“On Jan. 29, we’re going to set an election date for a complete set of council representatives from Health Science Campus to join the established Main Campus leadership as a unified organization.”

The unified Women’s Leadership Forum, Collins said, will host elections for Health Science Campus officers in February. Discussion regarding the method of election and other information will take place at the Jan. 29 meeting, which will be held in Health Education Building Room 105 on Health Science Campus. Men and women from both campuses are invited to attend.

The planned February elections on Health Science Campus will be open only to faculty, staff and students from that campus.

The Women’s Leadership Forum was formed with the goal of identifying and advocating women’s causes. The organization has examined issues such as gender equity,
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“The Fetterman Training Center is not only a natural extension of our newly renovated Savage Arena, it is also symbolic of our desire to provide the best for our student-athletes and our students as they mature into tomorrow’s leaders.”

“I didn’t go to college, but I have a daughter, two sons-in-law and a grandson who are UT graduates, and another grandson who is a senior at UT,” said longtime UT supporter Hal Fetterman. “I like the integrity I see at The University of Toledo. God has been good to me, and I’m happy to be able to give back something to the community.”

“The Fetterman Training Center will be a fantastic training environment for our student-athletes,” O’Brien said. “The completion of this facility, along with the addition of Savage Arena and the Sullivan Athletic Complex last year, will give The University of Toledo an athletics complex that is second to none, and one in which our students, staff, alumni and fans can be justifiably proud.

“We are deeply grateful to Hal and Susan Fetterman, whose generous donation helped make the construction of this wonderful new facility possible.”

UT coaches can’t wait for the new facility to open.

“The Fetterman Training Center is going to be huge for us, both in recruiting and in the development of our current student-athletes,” Beckman said. “It will provide a year-round workplace where our players can fine-tune their skills.”

“The women’s basketball team is very excited to be included in the plans with the practice court,” said Head Women’s Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop. “It will serve as a place for our players to receive additional individual instruction and extra shooting time when the main floor in Savage Arena is in use.”

“Our new indoor facility displays the University’s support of the development and growth for our student-athletes,” said Head Men’s Basketball Coach Gene Cross. “It gives us every opportunity from a facility standpoint to be successful and win MAC Championships. It impacts every aspect of athletics.”

“Having an indoor chipping and putting facility, as well as a video room and locker rooms, is a huge benefit for our program,” said Men’s Golf Coach Jamie Mauntler. “I think the golf training area will end up being one of the top 10 facilities of its kind in the country. It will improve our recruiting and improve our student-athletes’ skills in the winter months. Best of all, it will give our golf teams a place we can call home.”

“An indoor practice facility will help the women’s golf program immensely,” said Women’s Golf Coach Nicole Hollingsworth.

Student-athletes post second-highest GPA in school history

By Paul Helgren

UT student-athletes earned a collective grade point average of 3.115 for fall semester, the second-highest mark in school history. The best combined department GPA was 3.157, set last spring.

The 3.115 GPA also marked the seventh time in the last nine semesters that UT student-athletes earned a combined GPA higher than 3.0. Additionally, 11 of UT’s 15 sport programs had team GPAs of 3.0 or above, and every team had a combined GPA of at least 2.6.

Individually, 27 student-athletes earned perfect 4.0 GPAs last fall, while 115 individuals (more than 30 percent) earned a spot on the dean’s list by garnering at least a 3.50 GPA.

Additionally, 55 percent (211 of 383) of UT student-athletes achieved a 3.0 grade point average or better for the fall semester, the 12th consecutive semester in which at least half of Rocket student-athletes earned a 3.0+ GPA.

“This is the second consecutive semester in which our student-athletes have combined for a grade-point average of above a 3.1,” UT Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien said. “Everyone involved with the academic success of our student-athletes — our coaches, staff and University faculty — shares in this accomplishment.”

Women’s golf led the way with a team GPA of 3.651, followed closely by women’s soccer with 3.637. Both teams came very close to setting the team record for GPA in a semester; that 3.685 mark was set by women’s soccer last spring.

2009 FALL SEMESTER
TEAM 3.0+ GPAS

Women’s Golf  3.651
Women’s Soccer  3.637
Women’s Cross Country  3.485
Women’s Swimming  3.412
Men’s Tennis  3.361
Women’s Volleyball  3.303
Softball  3.286
Women’s Tennis  3.269
Women’s Track & Field  3.227
Men’s Golf  3.213
Women’s Basketball  3.078

Women’s forum
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funding for Apple Tree Nursery School, gender and racial distribution of recent layoffs, the number of female full professors, the impact changes in UT’s attendance policy have on women, and workload issues pertaining to female faculty members, among other issues.

“They keep a voice for women, you improve the health of the entire institution.”

Collins encourages men and women from both campuses to attend Women’s Leadership Forum meetings to learn about the status of women’s issues at UT, support their peers, and bring situations of concern to the organization for further examination.

“Even though we advocate for women, the scope of the forum’s investigations touches the entire campus community,” she said. “We’ve had men on campus tell us they’re thankful because our investigation of issues improved their situations as well.”

For more information about the Jan. 29 meeting or the Women’s Leadership Forum, contact Charlene Gilbert, director of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women and forum convener, at charlene.gilbert@utoledo.edu, or Collins at nancy.collins@utoledo.edu.
Ink cartridge donation to benefit clean water project in Honduras

By Jeffrey Romagni

A lmost a year ago, a group of engineering students made the trip to Los Sanchez, Honduras, to give the gift of clean, easily accessible water to a local village.

The University of Toledo student chapter of Engineers Without Boarders is planning to return to Honduras over spring break on an assessment trip to help plan future projects.

“We would like to complete some smaller projects utilizing the water that we originally brought to the village of Los Sanchez,” said Adam Dellinger, vice president of membership for the UT chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

“For example, we might put in a tilapia farm so that they can raise fish to sell. Also, we would like to install an irrigation system for farming or provide other basic infrastructural needs such as chimneys or latrines.”

In addition to continuing their work in Los Sanchez, the students will assess the possibility of installing a similar water distribution system in the nearby village of La Barranca.

Six students and two technical mentors will conduct the upcoming assessment trip to Los Sanchez, where they will compile basic information needed for the project design.

Although the UT students have received support from organizations that include the Toledo Rotary Foundation and the Toledo Technical Society, projects can cost anywhere from $10,000 to $25,000, so fundraising is a key factor in the success of their group.

In order to raise money and awareness for the trip, the students have started to collect and recycle ink cartridges and toner from the UT community. The students take the items to Cartridge World, a company that specializes in cartridge refilling and recycling, where they receive a small profit for each reusable item.

Some cartridges and toners won’t generate any money because of their inability to be reused; however, the students will still take them to be recycled.

“Although fundraising for the project is important, what’s more important is that we are recycling the plastic and raising awareness for our efforts,” Dellinger explained. “Instead of throwing it out and putting it in a landfill, you can get your ink cartridge recycled and in the process raise some money for a really great cause.”

There are nine cartridge drop-off stations on Main Campus:

• Student Union in the UT Bookstore and by Starbucks and Rocket Copy;
• International House, Parks Tower and Carter Hall near the front desk or mailboxes;
• Ottawa East near the dining hall;
• Rocket Hall in the Rocket ID Center; and
• Plant Operations in the lounge.

The UT student chapter of Engineers Without Borders was organized in 2007 to provide the opportunity for students to become involved in service-learning activities while helping to meet the needs of communities in developing countries and in disaster areas.

For more information, or to arrange cartridge pickup, contact Dellinger at adam.dellinger@rockets.utoledo.edu.

UT to host MLK awards, change format to maximize scholarship aid

By Jon Strunk

T he University of Toledo will announce the winners of the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Award at a reception Friday, Feb. 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center on Main Campus.

New Toledo Mayor Mike Bell will speak at the event.

Established in 1969, less than one year after King’s death, the scholarship has helped nearly 100 UT students pay for their education and, through their success, honor King’s legacy.

Greg Braylock, a 2006 MLK Scholarship recipient and current member of the event’s organizing committee, said the award provided him an opportunity to complete his degree when financial options were running out.

“I had a four-year scholarship, but after I changed majors, I needed to find a way to pay for the fifth,” Braylock said. With his federal loan eligibility tapped out and seeking to avoid a high-interest private loan, Braylock started applying for scholarships.

“I remember walking to UT in the snow the day of the deadline and working on the application in the Student Union. I finished it right before the deadline and said a prayer,” he said.

“I’m not sure how I would have financed my last year of college without it, and I’ve always been extremely thankful and grateful.”

In addition to the funds raised by reception attendees, Paramount Advantage has contributed to the MLK Scholarship fund, according to Vern Snyder, vice president for institutional advancement.

“It’s a different time for this nation and this region,” Snyder said.

“Organizations like Paramount see students trying to pay for college in tough times and they want to contribute to that. I’m excited by the positive response we’ve received with the format change, and I think Dr. King would very much approve as we work to increase opportunities for so many future leaders.”

In memoriam

UT Men’s Chorus to perform at state conference

By Angela Riddel

The University of Toledo Men’s Chorus has been chosen to perform at the Ohio Music Education Association 2010 Professional Development Conference Thursday, Jan. 28, in Cincinnati.

The group, which numbers more than 40 members, is one of only five selected to sing.

It isn’t easy to be selected to perform at the conference, according to Dr. Stephen Hodge, professor of music, who has directed the UT Men’s Chorus since it was founded in 1994.

“It’s extremely difficult. The state of Ohio is saturated with choral programs. There are 43 major colleges and universities in the state with choral programs, and a lot of them submit frequently,” he said.

The UT Men’s Chorus will perform a 10-song program, with pieces ranging from gospel to classical repertoire, in the Regency Ballroom on the first day of the conference, which runs Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 28-30. The program will include four selections that feature soloists.

Hodge is very proud of the chorus. “They are a good, hard-working group,” he said. “It takes a lot of work to prepare for something like this. They only rehearse together twice a week. So that means they have to dedicate a lot of time to practicing on their own, and they do.”

The last time a UT choral group was selected to perform at the statewide conference was in 2005 when the Women’s Chorus performed and the Concert Chorale appeared for a clinic. Prior to that, the Concert Chorale performed in 1997.

The Ohio Music Education Association is the third largest of the 52 federated state affiliates of the National Association for Music Education. Ohio members are involved at all levels of music education, serving more than 1.8 million public school students in 612 public school districts and 51 colleges and universities in the state.

Theatre student wins regional award for set design

By Angela Riddel

Frances “Frankie” Teuber, a junior majoring in theatre, placed second in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region II Set Design Competition.

The festival was held Jan. 12-16 in Indiana, Pa.

Teuber’s winning design was created for the November UT production of “Machinal.” Theatre Professor James Hill was her faculty adviser on the project.

While she did not win the Barbizon Award that would have allowed her entry to advance to the national competition, her work attracted a great deal of interest among judges and spectators alike.

Cornel Gabara, UT assistant professor of theatre, said that her entry received praise from professionals at the event. “They were impressed. These are Broadway professionals and that is important.”

He said they commented on her creativity and gave Teuber suggestions for improving her model-building technique for competition. Gabara added, “No doubt the talent is there.”

Teuber, from Warren, Ohio, also designed the set for the UT production of “Coronado” for the 2008-09 season. Last summer, she was the set designer for two professional productions: “Junk Drawer” at the Boulder International Fringe Festival and “Ectopsasms” at the New York Fringe Festival. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in set design.

Glacity Theatre Collective member Dr. Ben Pryor, UT associate professor and chair of philosophy, said, “Having been to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, I well understand the intensity of this competition and the level of accomplishment it takes to succeed. Thus, it is truly remarkable — though not at all surprising — to hear that we’ve done so well. It’s a reflection of an unparalleled commitment to artistic excellence from all involved.”

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region II comprises approximately 90 colleges from Ohio, southwest New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, northern Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.