Wild horse birth control offers solution to overpopulation in Western states

By Jon Strunk

Researchers at The University of Toledo have developed an effective birth control vaccine for wild horses that could be the answer to much of the ongoing controversy regarding the United States’ efforts to control the animals’ population growth.

Working with the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management, Dr. John Turner, UT professor of physiology and pharmacology, has led a team that developed a vaccine — named PZP — that prevents a mare’s egg from connecting with a sperm cell, blocking fertilization.

While the concept of wild horse birth control is not new, the effectiveness of Turner’s method is. By creating a vaccine that uses time-released polymers to give periodic vaccine boosters in a single injection, Turner has created birth control that lasts two to three years with single access to a given mare.

“This vaccine is administered when wild horses are periodically rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management for adoption or placement in ‘sanctuaries,’” he said. “However, many more horses are gathered than can be placed, so to slow down reproduction, we vaccinate the females that are to be returned to the range.

“In 1971, wild horses and burros came under the protection of the federal government. Part of that responsibility includes ensuring the wild horse population doesn’t grow beyond the ability of the natural resources of the land to sustain them,” said Turner, who recently received a $2.7 million grant from the Department of Interior to further his vaccine research.

Part of Turner’s grant is for research to expand the single-injection vaccine to last up to four years as well as to begin wide-scale implementation of what has to this point been a vaccine in the experimental phase.

continued on p. 2

President unveils budget process

President Lloyd Jacobs sent the letter below to the University community Friday.

The formal development of our FY12 budget began at the onset of this calendar year. I need not remind you that budget formulation is perhaps the most important tool for the implementation of institutional strategy, is certain to be arduous, and frequently stresses an institution’s culture. This year’s process will be difficult. The New York Times recently stated: “... colleges and universities, as well as students and their parents, are facing an unprecedented financial crisis.”

To deal with the looming crisis, I propose the creation of a FY12 Budget Formulation and Re-Engineering Task

Decade of unity to be celebrated at MLK event

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Day celebration started out 10 years ago as an idea to bring the city together on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It now has become the largest community event in the area to celebrate the activist’s memory and vision.

The “One World. One people … Tenth Year” celebration will take place at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 17, in Savage Arena with more people participating than ever before as the program will be carried live on television for the first time via FOX Toledo 36. It also will be on a time delay with WGTE Public Media.

The ceremony will include words of inspiration from UT President Lloyd Jacobs, Toledo Mayor Mike Bell and area youth —

continued on p. 8
Academic reorganization continues at UT

By Meghan Cunningham

As spring semester starts, students will begin to see more of the tangible changes brought about by the academic reorganization of the University approved in the fall by the Board of Trustees.

Initially, many of these changes will be small — new signage and administrative office moves — but behind the scenes, founding deans of new colleges are engaged in the budget preparation process and beginning to talk about collaborative schools, said Dr. William McMillen, interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

“The College of Visual and Performing Arts leaders are already envisioning a School of Creativity that will bring in experts from across the University, such as creative writing faculty in the College of Language, Literature and Social Sciences,” McMillen said. “Schools are still in the process of being created and by design that is an organic process that will continue indefinitely as schools come and go in response to the changing needs of students and the community.”

UT President Lloyd Jacobs has said that the reorganization will allow previously underrepresented disciplines a seat at the budget table and a stronger voice to advocate for their disciplines.

While the transitions continue, particularly with those new colleges created from the former College of Arts and Sciences, there will be crossovers and some duplication as University leaders work to identify the most efficient ways to serve students, McMillen said.

“It’s important that process be thoughtful and deliberate,” he said. “As President Jacobs has said, this reorganization process will require thousands of decisions, and we are calling on students, faculty and staff to provide input in making those decisions.”

One decision that already has been made is students set to graduate this spring will do so from the original College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health Science and Human Service, reassessment of the bedrock structure of our institution. Everything is on the table. We must consider:

1. Hierarchical layering. Currently, some places in the institution have excessive layering. Supervisor to supervisee ratios are low. This constitutes an opportunity for better communication and efficiency as well as cost savings.
2. The next stage in our reorganization plans call for a review of the number of departments, alignment with their colleges, and potential redundancies. This may require a separate subgroup, perhaps assisted by outside consultants.
3. Mid-level staff support should be reviewed. College and departmental finance and administrative staff may need to be redeployed to cover a greater span. The redeployment should not be limited by unit boundaries.
4. Opportunities for outsourcing must be examined. Major functions such as Accounts Receivable Management, Human Resource Management and Hospital Food Service are all candidates. Outsourcing to other governmental agencies or universities should be considered.
5. Policies and procedures must be examined in a fundamental way. Waste must be eliminated and processes streamlined, while protecting our mission and values.

The areas above are listed only to illustrate how fundamental and significant this process must be. Nothing short of true re-invention of The University of Toledo is likely to suffice.

Please supply your input to this group or to me. Contribute your ideas. I have spoken with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee about these issues and have invited their participation in subsequent discussions. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has agreed to lead a discussion of these issues at Faculty Senate and when possible to facilitate full participation of the faculty in this stage of reorganization.

I am pleased with evidence of unity among us all at this critical time. Let’s work together to achieve our vision of UT as a “transformative force for the world” even in the face of these difficult challenges.

Thank you,
President Lloyd Jacobs

Wild horse birth control

continued from p. 1

In the 1920s, an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 horses roamed the United States. In the late 1970s, as Turner began working with wild horses, that number was about 80,000. Today, an estimated 35,000 wild horses and burros compete with sheep and cattle for grazing fields, water and space.

In the face of continuing human expansion, horses and burros compete with sheep and cattle for grazing fields, water and space. "Horses have always had a special place in the culture and history of the United States. For me, the wild horse remains a magnificent creature for which I have great respect," Turner said. "It is one of very few large mammals that can live and even thrive year round in the harsh, dry high deserts of the inter-mountain West. These animals are truly a testimonial to the adaptiveness of nature, and I am blessed to be able to study them and help in finding a humane way to assure their wild future."

“The vaccine also has applications beyond wild horse population control. Turner’s research team has been working with zoos to use the vaccine to enable male and female animals to share a habitat display without the risk of new offspring being born,” Turner said.

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Look for the next issue of UT News Jan. 18
Fall commencement

President Lloyd Jacobs, left, and UT Board of Trustees Chair C. William Fall, right, placed a hood on Dr. James Stanley, Handleman Professor of Surgery and director of the Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan Medical Center, who addressed graduates at fall commencement. Stanley received an honorary doctorate of science during the ceremony.

Graduates of the Judith Herb College of Education were all smiles.

Graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences looked for family and friends.

Curtis Brinkman celebrated receiving his engineering degree.

There were several festive mortar boards, including this one.
Employees celebrate fall commencement

Allie Denham, daughter of Dr. Mark Denham, associate professor and chair of political science and public administration, graduated magna cum laude with bachelor of arts degrees in music, global studies, and English with a concentration in creative writing. Allie, a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, plans to continue studying music in graduate school.

Na’Tasha L. Nunn, daughter of Trazon Harris, custodial worker, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and Africana studies. She plans to become an educator and one day open a child-care facility.

Daniel Kaetzel, husband of Stephanie Kaetzel, chemical storekeeper 2 in the Chemistry Department, received a bachelor of education degree in special education. He would like to work with children who have mild to moderate disabilities as an intervention specialist in a public school system.

Matthew Culling, son of Marcia Culling, senior business manager in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, received a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in accounting. Matthew hopes to work for a certified public accounting firm, pass the Certified Public Accountant exam, and obtain a master of science degree in accounting.
Page one of nation’s 12 ‘Players to Watch in 2011’

By Paul Helgren

Toledo sophomore Eric Page will be honored as one of the nation’s 12 “Players to Watch in 2011” by the Touchdown Club of Columbus at its annual awards banquet Saturday, Feb. 5. Page recently concluded an outstanding season for the Rockets, earning first-team All-America honors as a kickoff returner by the Sporting News and the Walter Camp Foundation, among others. He is the first UT football player to make first-team on any All-America team since quarterback Gene Swick was named first-team by UPI in 1975.

Page, who plays wide receiver as well as returning kickoffs and punts for the Rockets, ranks third in the nation in kickoff returns (31.1 average) and is the only player in the Football Bowl Series to have returned three kickoffs for touchdowns this season. As a receiver, Page is seventh in the nation with 99 receptions, and ranks 18th in the country with 1,105 receiving yards. He was named the MAC’s special teams player of the year, and made first-team All-MAC as both a kickoff returner and wide receiver.

The Touchdown Club of Columbus was founded in 1956 at the request of then State Auditor (and later Gov.) James Rhodes as a venue to honor achievements in football and other sports from around the country. Since then, the Touchdown Club of Columbus has honored more than 2,000 of the world’s finest athletes, as well as the greatest football players to take the field. Athletes in various categories are selected each year by the Touchdown Club’s committees, which consist of coaches, sportswriters and former players.

Four football players named academic All-MAC, most UT honorees in 15 years

By Paul Helgren

Our UT student-athletes have been named to the 2010 Academic All-Mid-American Conference football team. It is the largest number of Academic All-MAC honorees for UT football since seven Rockets made the team in 1995.

The four honorees are senior center Kevin Kowalski, junior offensive lineman Mike VanDerMeulen, sophomore defensive lineman T.J. Fatiniikun and sophomore linebacker Dan Molls.

Rockets receiving honorable mention Academic All-MAC were sophomore offensive lineman Zac Kerin, junior long snapper Colin McHugh, junior defensive tackle Malcolm Riley, junior safety Mark Singer, redshirt freshman Christian Smith and sophomore tight end Jared Strait.

“I am extremely proud of the student-athletes who made the Academic All-MAC team, and proud of all the young men in our program who are working very hard in the classroom,” said Head Coach Tim Beckman. “Our goal is for our players to achieve excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, and we feel they are definitely committed to achieving that goal.”

Toledo’s 2010 Academic All-MAC Honorees

T.J. Fatiniikun
Sophomore Defensive End GPA: 3.41 Major: Communication Hometown/High School: Perrysburg, Ohio/Perrysburg Named third-team All-MAC; led team and was sixth in MAC with 13.0 tackles for loss, most tackles for loss by a Rocket since 17.0 by Mike Alston in 2006; tied for second in MAC with four forced fumbles; also had 5.0 sacks; led defensive line with 51 tackles; career-best 2.5 tackles for loss vs. Kent State, including crucial 10-yard sack in second half; career-high seven tackles at Ohio; and nominee for Academic All-America.

Kevin Kowalski
Senior Center GPA: 3.67 Major: Education Hometown/High School: Macedonia, Ohio/Nordonia Started all 13 games at center; leader of offensive line that ranked fourth in MAC in total offense (365.4/game) and third in rushing yards (163.8); has 47 consecutive career starts for most on the team; nominee for Academic All-America; and 2009 Academic All-MAC honorable mention.

Mike VanDerMeulen

Third-team All-MAC selection; second on team and second in MAC and eighth in nation with 143 tackles; tied for team lead with three interceptions; career-high 19 tackles vs. Northern Illinois; 17 tackles vs. Wyoming; six tackles, one sack, one forced fumble, one interception and one pass broken up vs. WMU; career-high 11 tackles in 20-13 win vs. Ohio, plus two interceptions and a key fourth-down sack late in the game; named MAC West Division Defensive Player of the Week for performance vs. Ohio; also named honorable mention national linebacker of the week by College Football Performance Awards and MAC Player of the Week by Rivals.com; and nominee for Academic All-America.

Dan Molls
Sophomore Linebacker GPA: 3.57 Major: Exercise Science Hometown/High School: North Royalton, Ohio/Padua Franciscan

Third-team All-MAC selection; second on team and second in MAC and eighth in nation with 143 tackles; tied for team lead with three interceptions; career-high 19 tackles vs. Northern Illinois; 17 tackles vs. Wyoming; six tackles, one sack, one forced fumble, one interception and one pass broken up vs. WMU; career-high 11 tackles in 20-13 win vs. Ohio, plus two interceptions and a key fourth-down sack late in the game; named MAC West Division Defensive Player of the Week for performance vs. Ohio; also named honorable mention national linebacker of the week by College Football Performance Awards and MAC Player of the Week by Rivals.com; and nominee for Academic All-America.

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No Vikings, but no dearth of warm glow in frigid Sweden

By Dr. Abdul-Majeed Azad

“Hej till du från Sweden! Hur mår du? Mycket bra, ja!”
(Hello to you from Sweden! How are you? Very well, yeah!)

It is nearly four months that I’ve been at Chalmers Institute of Technology in “Göteborg” (Gothenburg) on a Fulbright assignment. Even in this short period, I’ve become fascinated by Sweden’s exotic natural landscape, well-preserved historical archives, insane aristocratic homes filled with all the equally insane eccentricities that money can buy, its people, culture and the society. When the time comes to bid adieu to Sweden in June, it will be an emotional struggle.

Chalmers is a 180-year-old private school of international repute in engineering and technology. Its engineering and applied science departments are well-respected in Europe and around the globe for their entrepreneurial niche.

The Division of Energy Technology, to which I’m attached for nine months as a Fulbrighter, is spearheading a clean energy manifesto with its world-renowned program in chemical looping combustion (CLC) and chemical looping via oxygen uncoupling (CLOU) processes. The program brings perhaps the world’s finest team of faculty, researchers and Europe’s brightest PhD students together. Thanks to Europe’s and Sweden’s obsession with the environment, CLC is well-funded by the European Union, Swedish Science Foundation and industrial energy giants that include Vattenfall. The CLC group also has well-established collaborations with similar groups in Spain, Austria, France, Belgium and Norway.

I’m certainly indebted to the Fulbright Commission for this wonderful opportunity. I consider myself very fortunate to be associated with such timely activities at Chalmers. I’m in the process of synchronizing my materials background with their exemplary expertise in large-scale fluidized bed reactor engineering that caters to power generation to the tune of 100 to 1,000 kilowatts-thermal, using fossil fuels in the most benign and cleanest possible way with the most sensible scheme of sequestering carbon dioxide from stationary power plants. It is Chalmers’ technological innovations coupled with its people’s passionate devotion to doing things right that I find not only fascinating but contagious, too. I hope this invigorating fervor stays with me.

Besides my work pertaining to the design and fabrication of the next-generation oxygen carriers, I’m also observing the pattern of rich ethics and healthy lifestyle that this nation has adopted. Some of the things I’ve fallen in unconditional love with in Sweden: the innate habit of recycling; passion for climate and its preservation; almost nonexistent waste of food; sense of keeping things in order; an uncannily efficient public transport system; and an almost religious addiction for “fika” (coffee with pastry, cookie or cake several times a day). And yet I’ve not spotted Starbucks peppered around! I can’t seem to find one obese person in Gothenburg!

Sweden’s population is a little more than 9 million — smaller than Belgium’s and more sparsely populated than Brazil. On a more familiar scale, it is about as big as California with a smaller population. It is also among the countries of the world farthest removed from the equator. And that for me is where the Swedish fascination begins, with its shortest days (only few of them bright and sunny) in winter and the longest ones in summer.

Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, is the most beautiful city in Europe. It consists of several tiny islands, each telling a history of its own. It represents the perfect amalgam of Sweden’s mystifying Christian old and the modern. Thanks to the Fulbright Commission’s periodic summons for pleasant excursions and sightseeing, the more I go there, the more intense my infatuation with the city grows.

I’m resolved to learn more about Sweden and her culture as I slowly explore its landscape, interiors and borders with Norway and Denmark during the remainder of my stay.

Among many things I’ve experienced so far, one thing that has touched me most and will perhaps remain vivid in my mind’s eye forever is the Nobel Prize Award ceremony. As Fulbright grantees, we were invited to be part of this year’s event in Stockholm’s most impressive concert hall on Dec. 10.

There were 1,350 guests — including the Swedish Royal family, many heads of states and ambassadors — all in their best attire. It was no doubt the Golden Globe event for the best minds on this planet. The ceremony was not only a once-in-a-lifetime experience but also a very humbling and moving one. The ambiance was serene yet electrifying, soothing yet energetic. Above all, there was an unmistakable humility. It felt as if the divine kindness had descended on Stockholm that evening. And the audience savored every moment of it. Then there was one moment when time almost froze — or so it seemed — for an eternity.

When Professor Richard Heck’s name was called as one of the three Nobel Laureates in Chemistry, he slowly stood up but had difficulty walking toward the king to receive the honor. As if on an impulse, Professor Andre Konstantinovich Geim, this year’s Nobel Laureate in Physics, stood up, held Professor Heck’s elbow gently, and helped him walk. After Professor Heck had received the honor, Professor Geim helped him back to his seat with utter respect and deep reverence. Everybody watched with rapt admiration at what unfolded on the Nobel podium. The standing ovation from the audience was part congratulatory and part admiration of Professor Geim’s fine “Nobility.”

Many of us later confided to one another that this humanistic gesture by Professor Geim brought mist of joy to our eyes. This made me think. Beyond the gold medal, citation and seal of immortality for individual genius, the true legacy of Alfred Nobel is to celebrate the best in mankind, irrespective of its source and background, and to raise the innate selflessness of fellow humans to surpass the ranks of angels. And in this legacy is the shining example of Sweden.

Azad is a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and a 2010-11 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Alternative Energy at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden.
Life lessons from a broken Haiti

By Dr. Clinton O. Longenecker

On January 12, 2010, a catastrophic 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, and the country again was thrust onto the world stage with 24-7 news coverage. We were stunned by horrific scenes of death and destruction from a place that is driven in and out of our consciousness by natural and manmade disasters — famine, tropical storm, aid scandals, coup d’état or epidemic.

For my family and me, the earthquake became a very emotional experience as we have deep, personal ties to this country that is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. More than 1.2 million homeless and 230,000 dead are numbers too staggering to comprehend.

I began my Haiti “experience” as a UT MBA student in 1978 researching baseball manufacturing in the country for an international business course. I knew nothing about the country but was intrigued because of its people and rich history, being the first black republic gaining independence in 1804 and the only nation being a choice. Talk to anyone who has been to Haiti or any Third World country and they can share the same. When surrounded by comforts, it is a constant effort for me to integrate these lessons in my everyday life lest I forget how blessed I am.

Last summer I returned to post-earthquake Haiti and was blown away by the scope of destruction and suffering that was still playing six months later. As I traveled Port-au-Prince, I realized that Internet pictures and TV couldn’t capture the new reality of Haiti, which always has been an extremely difficult place to live, work and travel. The presidential palace and government buildings were knocked down, and the churches were in rubble. Roads, telephone poles, electricity and water systems were still in disrepair. Tent cities and temporary markets were everywhere. Schools and shops had sprung up out of the debris, and Haitians were going about their daily lives sidestepping rubble at every turn.

I was reminded of a new set of life lessons:

• Countries really can work together regardless of politics and culture when they choose to; I counted aid workers from more than 20 of the 70 different countries that stepped in to help Haiti get through the crisis;

• Individuals can and do make a difference using their talents and treasure to help others less fortunate as I met people from every walk of life pitching in;

• The Haitian people are among the strongest, most patient and resilient people in the world as they are coping with a situation that would cause many to give up;

• Leaders must lead in a time of crisis; meeting with government officials, I observed a lack of planning, organizing and action to move the country forward; and

• It is one thing to hear of more than a million homeless and another to see a mother and her four children huddled together in a tent in the rain over a charcoal fire knowing that there is nowhere to go and tomorrow will bring the same.

As we begin 2011, let us not forget the people of Haiti who survived the quake only to be hit with storms, flooding, a cholera outbreak and an uncertain future.

While Haiti may not be in the headlines, the people still need our help, and we can learn great lessons from them as we take on the challenges that come with the new year.

Longenecker is the Stranahan Professor of Leadership and Organizational Excellence in the College of Business and Innovation.
In memoriam

Dr. Marios Boucouras, Toledo and Naples, Fla., a clinical assistant professor in the MCO Department of Surgery’s Division of Orthopedics from 1970 to 1987, died Dec. 20 at age 89.

James R. “Jr.” Boykin, Toledo, a former UT Medical Center employee, died Dec. 15 at age 58.

Robert F. Cavalear, Perrysburg, who served on the UT Foundation Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2000, died Dec. 4 at age 85. He established a UT scholarship in his name.

Martin L. Clark, Toledo, a UT employee for 30 years, died Dec. 15 at age 73. He graduated from the University in 1960 with a bachelor’s degree in English. He returned to campus in 1967 to work as a public information officer in University Relations. He was promoted to public information officer 2 in 1968 and to public information officer 3 in 1969. Clark was editor of UTimes from 1994 until his retirement in 1997. He received the Toledo Professional Chapter of the Association for Women in Communication’s Crystal Award for his work on the UT faculty and staff publication in 1996 and an award of merit for feature writing in 1988.

Inez K. Cox, Toledo, who worked in the UT Bookstore for several years, died Dec. 24 at age 90. She was hired as a cashier-clerk in 1962, and was promoted to cashier in 1968 and cashier 2 in 1969. She retired from the University in 1980.

Donald R. Fraser, Perrysburg and Fort Myers, Fla., died Dec. 28 at age 83. A former member of the Ohio House of Representatives and assistant to the solicitor for patents in the U.S. Department of the Interior in the 1970s, he also taught patent and intellectual property law at the UT College of Law. A lifetime member of the Alumni Association, he earned his bachelor’s degree in physics from UT in 1952.

Carol Ann Gall, Toledo, who worked at the University 17 years, died Dec. 28 at age 73. She was hired as a machine operator in Central Services in 1980. Seven years later, she was named mail center supervisor. In 1990, she became an administrative assistant in Central Services. Four years later, Gall went to work in Mail Services as a mail clerk/messenger, the position she retired from in 1997.

L. Ilean (Myles) Hufford, Toledo, who was the secretary for the first MCO dean, died Dec. 12 at age 78.

David M. Huffstetler, Toledo, who worked at the University for more than 20 years, died Jan. 2 at age 69. He joined the Athletics staff in 1984 and retired as head athletic trainer in 2008. Last fall, the training room in the Larimer Athletic Complex was named in Huffstetler’s honor; and in February he will receive the UT Varsity ‘T’ Club’s Distinguished Service Award.

Ruby C. Lindley, Toledo, a custodian at MCO who retired in 2000, died Dec. 9 at age 73.

Dr. Louis C. Ravin, a retired Toledo ophthalmologist known for his generosity, died Dec. 28 at age 98. In 2004, he and his wife, Sophie, donated $100,000 to the University for the Centennial Mall Beautification Project. The refurbished area around the University seal includes two gardens and was named the Ravin Plaza to honor the longtime Ottawa Hills residents. A Toledo native, Ravin took classes at UT in the late 1920s. He was a clinical associate in the MCO Department of Surgery’s Division of Ophthalmology from 1969 to 1974.

Kevin J. Rees, Toledo, a perioperative technician in the Pre-Op Department at UT Medical Center from 1980 to 2008, died Dec. 11 at age 50.

Dr. Homer F. “Fritz” Schroeder, Greensboro, N.C., a clinical faculty member in MCO’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1970 to 1990, died Dec. 19 at age 90.

Betsy E. Werner, Monroe, Mich., a registered nurse at MCO who also taught nursing until her retirement in 1989, died Dec. 30 at age 82.

Robert G. Wingerter, Perrysburg, who served on the MCO Board of Trustees in 1970, died Jan. 3 at age 94.

Reorganization

continued from p. 2

and the Judith Herb College of Education. All future classes of students will graduate from the newly created colleges.

On Nov. 23, UT News reported that the College of Language, Literature and Social Sciences, led by Dr. Alice Skeens, will be located in the offices of the former College of Arts and Sciences in University Hall; the offices for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, led by Dean Debra Davis, will be in the Center for the Visual Arts on the Toledo Museum of Art Campus; and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and its dean, Dr. Karen Bjorkman, are moving into administrative offices in Wolfe Hall.

MLK event

continued from p. 1

including a pledge from students in Toledo Public Schools’ Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.

The Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir and the UT Student African-American Brotherhood will give performances. The 2010 MLK Scholarship recipients also will be recognized.

A free community luncheon will follow the ceremony.

“What affects one of us will affect us all and, as a result, we all will benefit from a community that values respect, dignity and equality,” Bell said. “Each year this event reminds us of these ideas as we celebrate the life of Dr. King and reinforce the dream he spent his life pursuing.”

“I look forward to this great event every year. It’s important to honor Dr. King and his message of equality, unity and service, which is entirely consistent with our values at The University of Toledo,” Jacobs said. “Dr. King’s words need to continue to be an inspiration for future generations as we all work to build upon his dream.”

King’s message of helping others will be honored with student service and volunteer opportunities at the event. And all attendees of Unity Day, which is open to the public, are asked to bring a canned good that will be donated to the MLK Kitchen for the Poor to help those in need.

The event is organized by Unity Celebration committee co-chairs Bill Stewart, special assistant to the mayor, and Dr. Shanda Gore, UT assistant vice president for equity and diversity.

For more information, contact Stewart at 419.245.1154 or the UT Office of Special Events at 419.530.2200.