Senior Toledo soccer player Natalia Gaitán took the field for her native country Colombia at the Summer Olympics. See more in a special section that starts on p. 7.

$2 million kidney donation project could save thousands of lives, millions of dollars

A pilot project led by The University of Toledo that could increase the number of kidneys available for transplant by the thousands and save U.S. taxpayers millions if implemented nationwide has been funded by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

“Many tests need to be conducted to ensure that a kidney donor and recipient are compatible and that it is safe for the donor to donate,” said Dr. Michael Rees, University of Toledo Medical Center transplant surgeon and principal investigator of the four-year, $2 million grant. “One of the primary barriers to greater kidney availability is that once an insurance company or Medicare learns that donor A’s kidney isn’t compatible with recipient A, they stop funding the tests and no transplant occurs.

“This grant will enable us to create an entity that pays to complete donor A’s tests, which allows us to discover that recipient B in another part of the country is compatible,” Rees said. “Once donor A gives to recipient B, the insurance company for recipient B will reimburse the entity for donor A’s tests. In a similar way, it may be donor K or donor W who ultimately ends up being compatible with recipient A.”

Rees estimated that if such a model was expanded nationwide, as many as 1,000 to 3,000 additional kidney transplants would be possible each year.

“The savings to Medicare and insurance companies could reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars due to the elimination of regular treatments like dialysis and other medical efforts for those waiting for an organ,” Rees said.

UTMC staff to celebrate second year as a best hospital

University of Toledo Medical Center employees, physicians and volunteers are invited to a celebration Friday, Aug. 17, in recognition of being nationally ranked as a U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital in eight different specialties.

The “All Hands on Deck” celebration is named after the new slogan that reflects UTMC’s team approach to making patient satisfaction a top priority.

“All of the great things that are happening at the UT Medical Center are occurring because of the hard work, continued on p. 2

continued on p. 2
patients, physicians and hospitals with network designed to provide our region’s announced the creation of a new stroke expertise, last month hospital officials recognized expert in stroke. Department of Neurology and a nationally Gretchen Tietjen, professor and chair of the in hospitals across the country,” said Dr. “The University of Toledo Medical Center has received the 2012 Stroke Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award from the American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association, marking a decade and a half of continuous recognition of UTMC’s commitment to and success in implementing superior care for stroke patients. “The University of Toledo is a national leader in stroke care, and we’ve made a commitment to not just meeting national standards, but to exceeding and setting the bar for what stroke care should encompass in hospitals across the country,” said Dr. Gretchen Tietjen, professor and chair of the Department of Neurology and a nationally recognized expert in stroke.

To further the reach of UTMC’s stroke expertise, last month hospital officials announced the creation of a new stroke network designed to provide our region’s patients, physicians and hospitals with remote access to UT physicians, enabling University doctors to advise and give a second opinion on whether patients need to be transferred to UTMC for special care or can be treated locally.

To qualify for the American Heart Association award, a hospital must adhere to all the specified standards at least 85 percent of the time for at least two consecutive years. The standards are those that have been proven to improve health after stroke: these include treating with TPA, a clot-busting medicine, within three hours of stroke and rapidly starting medications, such as blood thinners and cholesterol lowering drugs, to prevent future strokes.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, said it was the combination of outstanding physicians and clinicians and cutting-edge technology that makes UTMC such a strong treatment center for stroke victims.

“Our new stroke network gives us the ability to extend our recognized stroke expertise out into communities throughout our region,” Gold said. “Prevention and intervention when necessary are key to limiting the effects of a stroke. UTMC is among the nation’s leaders in furthering stroke care.”

Dr. Scott Scarborough, senior vice president and UTMC executive director, said that public information efforts by Tietjen and others at the University play an important role in letting the community know about the available options if a stroke occurs.

“Ratings like these are important for consumers who never know what to do first when they or someone they know begin showing signs of stroke,” Scarborough said.

The event will honor the staff members who helped UTMC be recognized in eight different specialties by U.S. News & World Report. UTMC continued to be ranked in the same seven specialties as 2011-12 with Gastroenterology also ranked for the first time this year.

The ranked specialties are:
- Ear, Nose and Throat;
- Gastroenterology;
- Geriatrics;
- Kidney Disorders;
- Neurology and Neurosurgery;
- Orthopedics;
- Pulmonology; and
- Urology.

“The University of Toledo Medical Center is always striving to improve the care and experiences we provide, and these rankings are welcome reminders of the success we’ve had,” said Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

“Congratulations to all of the people at UTMC who make results like this possible. I hope that you will join me as we work toward continuous improvement in all we do.”

Nearly 5,000 hospitals and 10,000 specialists submitted information to U.S. News for the 23rd annual 2012-13 report, and only 148 of the hospitals performed well enough to rank in even one of 16 different specialties.

Death rates, patient safety and hospital national reputation were a few of the factors considered when determining which hospitals were best. A hospital also had to treat a set amount of inpatients in each particular specialty in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and have enough specialists recommend the hospital for patients who needed a high level of expertise in those specialties.
UT president, chancellor meet with house speaker, NIH director

By Jon Strunk

University of Toledo leaders met July 19 with Speaker of the House John Boehner and National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins to discuss the importance of medical research to UT and other institutions across the state and the country.

President Lloyd Jacobs and Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, joined several leaders of other medical schools in Ohio to talk about the economic and health-care impact clinical research funded by the NIH can have on society.

“The line item in the federal budget that funds the National Institutes of Health is responsible for so many of the scientific and medical breakthroughs that treat and cure diseases and conditions that in the past caused great pain and suffering,” Jacobs said.

“I was very grateful that Speaker Boehner and Director Collins were able to discuss the important role research plays in advancing our nation,” Jacobs said. “Given their extremely busy schedules, taking time to meet speaks volumes about their commitment to and understanding of the economic and societal impact NIH-funded research can have.”

Gold, who serves as chair of the Ohio Council of Medical School Deans, announced in late May that the state’s medical colleges and teaching hospitals had an economic impact in excess of $42 billion in 2011 alone.

“Advancing medical care through basic scientific and translational research is a defining piece of this institution’s mission,” Gold said. “The opportunity to share with top national leaders some of our NIH-funded research successes and to provide information on research partnerships like the Academic Health Center offers UT a chance to reaffirm our commitment to providing the best health care available.”

Historic agreement

A UT delegation visited Flagstaff, Ariz., July 21 to sign an agreement to utilize the Discovery Channel Telescope, the fifth largest and most technologically advanced telescope in the continental United States. The UT group included, from left, Dr. Rupali Chandar, associate professor of astronomy; Dr. William McMillen, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; Lesley Simanton, graduate student in physics and astronomy; Dr. Michael Cushing, assistant professor of astronomy and director of the Ritter Planetarium; Joe Zerbey, UT trustee; Dr. Karen Bjorkman, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Carl Starkey, graduate student in physics and astronomy; Dr. S. Aminuddin, UT trustee; Dr. J.D. Smith, assistant professor of astronomy; and Adam Smercina, sophomore in physics and astronomy. Members of the team signed the official partnership papers, which makes UT members of a telescope consortium, including the Lowell Observatory, the Discovery Channel, the University of Maryland and Boston University. The first scientific use of the telescope took place in May and recorded this image of M109, a spiral barred galaxy.
Assistant professor’s work discussed in astronomy magazine

By Samantha Watson

When looking at the night sky, it’s clear that there is a multitude of stars. But invisible to the naked eye are stars that never reached their full potential — brown dwarfs doomed to burn out completely, unable to sustain nuclear fusion the way stars like our sun do.

Dr. Michael Cushing, UT assistant professor of astronomy, is mentioned in the July issue of Sky and Telescope magazine because of his study of brown dwarfs. He was the lead author of a paper published in the Astrophysical Journal in December on the discovery of Y dwarfs — an entirely new class of brown dwarfs.

“To have Sky and Telescope, which is a very popular amateur astronomy magazine, discuss our work is pretty exciting,” Cushing said. “I was pretty happy when the article came out.”

Cushing was a part of a team of astronomers who discovered the Y dwarfs, which are the coldest type of brown dwarfs known. Cushing helped find six using data from NASA’s Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE). One of these stars burned at only around 80 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature of a summer day on Earth.

WISE was launched into Earth’s orbit in December 2009, and it snapped images every 11 seconds using four different infrared wavelengths to map the entire sky. After WISE retired in February 2011, scientists like Cushing used the data to search for brown dwarfs.

While analyzing the WISE data, astronomers looked at the ratios of the intensity of light at two different wavelengths to find candidates that had similar ratios to previously studied cold brown dwarfs. When they had a list of candidates, they then used other telescopes to confirm the candidates are bona fide brown dwarfs and studied them further.

Astronomers used the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope and the Keck Observatory in Hawaii to see the light spectra given off by these candidates and infer whether they contained high levels of methane gas and steam — a characteristic common among cold brown dwarfs.

The discovery and analysis of brown dwarfs are important because, by looking at these failed stars and how they form, it is easier to understand far away planets that orbit other stars in the galaxy, Cushing said. Brown dwarfs share features of both low-mass stars and gas giant planets like Jupiter, earning them the nickname of “misfits,” being in some ways half planet and half star.

In order to even discover an exoplanet, astronomers must analyze the glare of its parent star and differentiate between that light and the light of the planet. Although nearly as faint, brown dwarfs are easier to study because they typically live in isolation.

“It’s much easier to study a faint brown dwarf — even if you have to use the Hubble Space Telescope — to make sure that you understand how very cold atmospheres work,” Cushing said.

Another goal of the astronomers, according to Cushing, is to obtain a complete census of all brown dwarfs in the solar neighborhood, which is the region of space around the sun out to a distance of roughly 20 light-years.

The data obtained by WISE is still being analyzed and likely will be for years to come. As Cushing told Sky and Telescope: “Right now we have 1,600 candidates in our list, and we’re not done searching the WISE data.”

In fact, Cushing said that his team has just received 125 orbits of the Hubble Space Telescope, which will be useful in their search for brown dwarfs.

Collaboration to provide satellite images of harmful algae in Western Lake Erie Basin

The University of Toledo, Blue Water Satellite Inc., and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory have launched a pilot program of satellite monitoring that can provide early bloom daily tracking of the harmful algal blooms that have increasingly threatened Western Lake Erie for the last several years.

“This experimental research project uses a collaboration between public and private entities to push the state of the art,” said Dr. Marie Colton, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich. “The Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, The University of Toledo and Blue Water Satellite bring their unique knowledge and experience to the collaboration. This public-private sector collaboration can pave the way to new knowledge creation and processes that may ultimately lead to job growth as the project transfers from research to commercial production.”

Using data from NASA’s Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer satellite, U.S. Geological Survey LANDSAT 7 satellite and the DigitalGlobe WorldView 2 satellite, researchers from The University of Toledo and Blue Water Satellite of Bowling Green, Ohio, will combine the data from each of the satellites. This data may in the future provide the public and governmental agencies additional ability to see toxic algae early bloom formation conditions in the entire Western Lake Erie region within 24 hours of each satellite overpass.

Low-resolution satellite data will be processed daily by Blue Water Satellite using algorithms developed by Dr. Richard Becker, UT assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences. High-resolution satellite imaging will be processed every 16 days and on demand by Blue Water Satellite using algorithms developed by Dr. Robert Vincent of Bowling Green State University and by Blue Water Satellite.

“The fusion of this low-resolution and high-resolution satellite data can provide additional insights into early harmful algal blooms formation never before possible,” Becker said.

“Blue Water Satellite is pleased to be collaborating with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Dr. Becker at UT, and the opportunity to pursue a public-private collaboration,” said Milt Baker, CEO of Blue Water Satellite.

In addition to the harmful algal blooms imagery and data, Blue Water Satellite will provide measurements of total phosphorus for the entire area. Increasing levels of total phosphorus are contributors to the severe algal blooms outbreaks in Lake Erie in recent years. BlueWater Satellite has developed the only algorithm in the world that performs this total phosphorus detection and measurement function using satellite data.

The harmful algal blooms that have formed in Lake Erie in recent years commonly contain cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae. Many cyanobacteria release toxins that are known to cause liver and nerve damage in humans and kill pets and other animals.

This University of Toledo work is supported through the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research, as part of its goal to assist the Great Lakes Observing System with near shore water quality management as a part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Once proven successful, the fusion monitoring project may become an ongoing service during harmful algal blooms outbreak season, roughly April through October each year.
Phi Kappa Phi honor society to recognize dean

By Aaron Horn

Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s largest collegiate honor society of all academics disciplines, has honored a University of Toledo dean for his achievements in research, teaching, service and leadership.

Dr. Tom Barden, dean of the Honors College and professor of English, has been named the 2012-14 Phi Kappa Phi Scholar. He is the first UT representative to win the award.

Every two years, the national fraternity, which has chapters at 300 campuses in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico, selects a person who exemplifies excellence in teaching, research and public service.

“I was thrilled to receive this award. This year has been wonderful for me all around. But I think the award must be related to the publication of my Steinbeck book,” Barden said.

In March, Barden’s book titled Steinbeck in Vietnam: Dispatches From the War was published. It chronicles the Nobel Prize-winning writer John Steinbeck’s journey to Vietnam in the 1960s and reprints all of the dispatches he filed to Newsday, the New York daily newspaper. The book received national attention and positive reviews from NPR, U.S. News & World Report, Huffington Post, Publisher’s Weekly and more.

“Dr. Barden combines a love of learning with a love of teaching that crosses traditional disciplinary lines,” said John C. O’Quinn, chair of the Phi Kappa Phi Scholar Selection Committee. “In addition to tremendous scholarship in the areas of American folklore, the oral tradition, and John Steinbeck, he has helped create interdisciplinary programs and fostered the careers of hundreds of students as the head of his university’s Honors College.”

Barden was nominated by UT Phi Kappa Phi Chapter Secretary Wade Lee, associate professor of library administration.

“Our chapter’s executive council was very proud to nominate Dr. Barden given his history of working to bring scholars and especially students together across disciplines, as well as his proven record of scholarship, teaching and service,” Lee said. “His work with the Honors College, UT Press, Writing Across the Curriculum, Disability Studies, and the Law and Social Thought Program show his dedication to the interdisciplinary nature of research, and he has received campus awards in the areas of teaching, research and community outreach and engagement.”

Phi Kappa Phi will present this award to Barden Saturday, Aug. 11, during the society’s annual national convention in St. Louis.

New class to focus on Hitchcock this fall

If you are a film major or a movie maven, consider enrolling in a new course, Alfred Hitchcock: Film Auteur, which will be offered fall semester.

Earn credit and have fun exploring the work of one of the most influential directors of the 20th century.

This online Adult Liberal Studies seminar will focus on selected films that provide an aesthetic overview of Hitchcock’s work, selected readings that analyze his techniques, and general lectures and discussions that help illuminate his career, note his contributions, and provide an understanding of why he is considered “master of suspense” as well as a director interested in exploring the human condition.

Hitchcock films are both entertaining to watch and fascinating to critique and analyze, according to Dr. Robert Turley, associate professor of English, who will teach the class.

“Through viewing key films in his repertoire such as ‘Rear Window,’ ‘Vertigo,’ ‘Psycho’ and ‘The Birds,’ and doing the required readings, this Adult Liberal Studies seminar also provides a unique view of this British director’s particular interpretation of American life and society through his use of 20th-century American landmarks and scenes,” he said.

For more information on this new class, contact Turley at rturley@utoledo.edu.

Army ROTC to host open house event Aug. 17

The University of Toledo ROTC will host an open house Friday, Aug. 17, for those interested in finding out more about the officer-training program.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. with a cookout, games and other activities in front of the Health Education Center across from the Glass Bowl on Main Campus.

Attendees can participate in activities such as paintball, corn hole and the rock-climbing wall, as well as interact with cadets in the ROTC Battalion to learn more about the program and the UT Department of Military Science and Leadership.

Army ROTC courses provide military skills, including land navigation, first aid, rifle marksmanship and rappelling, as well as military history, organization and structure.

The UT Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was founded in 1947; more than 1,500 lieutenants have been commissioned through the program since it began.

For more information on the UT Army ROTC, visit www.toledoarmyrotc.org.
To execute the pilot project, UT will partner with the Southwest Transplant Alliance and the Alliance for Paired Donation, an organization founded by Rees to help incompatible kidney donors and recipients find alternative compatible matches. The Alliance for Paired Donation is a northwest Ohio-based not-for-profit entity that has partnered with more than 80 transplant centers across America to find matches for patients.

“The University of Toledo is proud to lead the way as we explore a truly innovative approach to improving the quality of life and saving the lives of those waiting for a kidney transplant,” said Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor and executive vice president of biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. “We fully expect that as more matches are made between donors and recipients, this project will become self-sustaining and will serve as a model for hospitals, insurance companies and the federal government to improve health care and reduce costs.”

Gold and Rees thanked U.S. Senators from Ohio Rob Portman, as well as Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, for their help in advocating for the value of the grant to those in need of kidney transplants.

“This new approach will make sure that these volunteers’ honorable gestures do not go to waste, matching willing donors with compatible recipients regionally and across the United States, thereby saving lives and reducing massive wait lists for organ donations,” Portman said. “This new approach not only will make Toledo one of the world leaders in paired kidney transplantation, but also pave the way for a thriving, Toledo-based biotech industry, spurring job growth in northwest Ohio.”

“The research competitively funded today by the Department of Health and Human Services will undoubtedly save many lives, in addition to saving Medicare millions of dollars. Chronic kidney disease affects nearly one in 10 Ohioans and their families,” Kaptur said.

“The research done in paired kidney donation has the potential to save the healthcare industry and Medicare more than $95 million by getting people off of dialysis and on with their lives. Only about 17,000 kidney transplants are performed each year, with tens of thousands of more Americans on the wait list for a new kidney. Nearly 5,000 people will die waiting for a kidney each year,” Kaptur said. “That’s why this research to improve kidney donation is so important. I congratulate Dr. Rees and The University of Toledo Medical Center for securing this funding.”

By establishing a standardized charge nationwide for the compatibility testing, removal and transplantation of a kidney, the United States could remove the business disincentive currently in place that inhibits kidney donations across states, across different insurance companies, and between Medicaid and private insurers, Rees said.

“This grant will show this idea can work,” Rees said. “The next step will be convincing all parties involved that the concept works and then scaling this project up to the national level using the experience gained to save thousands of lives and millions of dollars every year going forward.”

In June, Rees and UTMC earned national acclaim for coordinating the first international altruistic kidney donation chain. An earlier chain that began in 2009 also has been covered by People Magazine and published in the New England Journal of Medicine.
Kicking around at the Summer Olympics

UT women’s soccer player Natalia Gaitán and her home country of Colombia lost to North Korea, 2-0, July 25 in its first-ever match at the Summer Olympics at Hampden Park in Glasgow, Scotland. The senior tri-captain played the entire match on defense and tallied one of Colombia’s four shots.

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki, vice provost for graduate affairs and dean of the College of Graduate Studies, left, and Alexis Tice, UT sophomore soccer player, posed for a photo with UT Soccer Coach Brad Evans, left, and Paul Holdgate, volunteer UT soccer coach, in Glasgow.

Fans of the United States showed their support at Hampden Park.

Flags were flying at St. James’ Park in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England.

Photos by Daniel Miller

Rocky the Rocket posed for a photo in Glasgow City Centre.
Zooming in on Olympic experience

By Daniel Miller

Since arriving back in Toledo from covering UT women’s soccer player Natalia Gaitán in the 2012 London Olympic Games, I’ve been reflecting on the trip by asking myself, “What did you see?”

Since my task was to photograph the experience, documenting what I was seeing through the lens, you’d think the answer would be simple.

But you’d be wrong.

If the old adage is true, that a picture is worth a thousand words, there must be millions more between each frame, even with a fast, high-end camera. The human mind’s ability to merge all the relevant details and context make it the best image capture device ever created, far better than any still camera.

So, what did I see?

I saw UT Head Women’s Soccer Coach Brad Evans being a mentor who was worried about his player. During the very limited times we were allowed to see her, Evans was sensitive to everything from her spirits after a loss to the experience she was having off the soccer pitch. Every time, he had the right words of encouragement or reassurance, even giving Natalia a comforting hug at the edge of the stands after Colombia’s elimination.

Most impressive to me was what he didn’t say. He respected the fact that, for that moment, she wasn’t actually his player. She was playing for Colombia Coach Ricardo Rozo, not Brad Evans. I’m sure there is an unspoken respect between coaches that prohibits it, but it must have been difficult to resist instructing her like he has for the past three years as a Rocket.

Interestingly, I think I saw Evans change from being the coach of a college player, full of potential, to a cheering fan of a talented defender, playing well on the world stage against top-level talent.

I saw a UT student-athlete be a true leader in front of this country and the world at the pinnacle of her sport. A big fish, in a very big pond. Natalia Gaitán showed everything from grace under pressure, by not retaliating against repeated fouls, to the perseverance needed to keep giving her all despite the outcome being all but assured.

In the times we were able to see her, there was never a complaint or regret. Natalia would always have a smile ready, as if she was trying to make us feel better! Perhaps the best evidence of her truly outstanding character was the way she led her teammates across the pitch after the loss to France in the final game to show thanks and applaud the Colombian fans. In a day and age when top athletes in this country have million-dollar contracts and still expect fans to come worship at their feet, this was a clear example of how things ought to be, and a template for athletes of the future.

I saw a player rise to the occasion when confronted by the best players in the world, in a true David and Goliath situation. Against Team USA, the field was slanted in Gaitán’s direction for most of the game, but she didn’t shrink or show fear. Instead, she ran hard against names that are already legendary in the sport: Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan and Abby Wambach. Gaitán not only faced them but, in my estimation, was directly accountable for at least four saves and an immeasurable amount of Team USA frustration for the majority of the game.

Before I left for the UK, I expected to see a coach who was mainly interested in finding out what his player could do when matched up against international competition and a student who would try hard but might be a little starry-eyed by the opponents and the grandeur of the Olympics. Instead, I saw an exceedingly professional coach who cares about his players as both a mentor and a father figure. I also saw that student change into a strong leader among her peers, a woman of high character, and someone I’m exceedingly proud to call an ambassador for The University of Toledo.

Miller is the photographer for the University.
Colombia players thanked their fans at St. James’ Park in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England.

Natalia Gaitán and her teammates warmed up prior to facing France.

Natalia Gaitán took possession of the ball from Abby Wambach during the Colombia-USA game July 28. The Americans won 3-0 at Hampden Park in Glasgow.
Olympic rings adorned the Tyne Bridge in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England.

Coach Brad Evans gave Natalia Gaitán a hug following Colombia’s last game in the Summer Olympics.

Natalia Gaitán kicked the ball away from a player from France. Colombia lost to France, 1-0, July 31 before 13,000 fans at St. James’ Park in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England.

Coach Brad Evans gave Natalia Gaitán a hug following Colombia’s last game in the Summer Olympics.
College of Law celebrates 40 years with auditorium makeover

By Samantha Watson

Not much has changed about the auditorium since it first opened after the $3,265,000 Law Center was dedicated Dec. 9, 1972.

Come this September, speakers and guests who come to the Law Center Auditorium will see a more modern atmosphere, thanks to renovations that will replace, among other things, the goldenrod benches that have seated curious patrons for 40 years.

During the past four decades, patrons have seen a diverse group of speakers from U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to Vanity Fair columnist Christopher Hitchens and even U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

“I think the space is going to be good for the whole University because many of our speaker series are open to the public,” said Jessica Mehl, assistant dean of law admissions. “I think people will be really impressed with what they see when they come over from other departments within the University.”

After renovations are complete, the auditorium will have a similar look and feel of a sophisticated courtroom. It also will feature updated audio-visual equipment and a new, handicap-accessible stage.

As part of the renovation, College of Law friends and alumni are able to purchase a chair in the auditorium to be named as part of their “Please Be Seated” campaign that began in July. Plates will be placed on the arm of each named chair and may be engraved in honor of a favorite professor, in memory of a loved one, or with the donor’s name, year of graduation or the name of the donor’s organization.

The ceremony to dedicate the Richard and Jane McQuade Law Auditorium will be held Monday, Sept. 10, in recognition of a generous donation by UT supporters Judge Richard McQuade and his wife, Jane McQuade.

The McQuades’ recent gift to the College of Law is the latest in the couple’s long history of philanthropy and service to The University of Toledo. Judge McQuade serves as a University trustee, and Jane McQuade is a member of UT’s Women and Philanthropy Committee.

Past gifts by the pair have funded the McQuade Courtroom, a teaching courtroom used by the Paralegal Studies Program in the Health and Human Services Building. Jane McQuade also created the Interview Suit Award to provide four Toledo law students who might not otherwise have the means with tailored suits as they interview for future employment.

For more information on the “Please Be Seated” campaign or UT Law Center renovations, check out law.utoledo.edu.

Astronomy program encourages girls interested in science

By Samantha Watson

The University of Toledo is using its expertise in astronomy to advance science education for the younger generations and encourage young girls’ interest in the field.

Advancements made to UT’s Ritter Astrophysical Research Center, including the installation of a state-of-the-art SciDome XD computerized space simulator in 2011, have allowed more immersive experiences for both adults and children in the community.

And in June, 25 girls from Toledo area elementary and middle schools came to UT for the Girls in Science Program designed to encourage young girls to explore their interest in science and math.

The girls who signed up for the free event watched educational programs in Ritter Planetarium, participated in hands-on activities, and toured some of UT’s research facilities. All expenses were paid by a career grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded to Dr. Rupali Chandar, associate professor of astronomy and creator of the workshop.

“The idea of the workshop is to bring together girls who are interested in math and science, or think they might be interested in math and science, and give them a safe environment to come together and meet other like-minded girls,” Chandar said.

During the event, students made their own solar cells, which were more primitive versions of the technology used to produce solar energy by converting light from the sun into electricity.

The girls also got to ride energy-creating bikes in McMaster Hall and were taught how the global climate is changing and the importance of finding cleaner forms of energy than fossil fuels.

It is important to reach out to girls while in elementary and middle school grades, Chandar said, because this is when they are at a formative age when they start to realize their interests and become more receptive to what their peers are doing.

Girls in Science is held once a semester, and Chandar hopes to find other sources of funding beyond the NSF grant to continue and expand the program to help fix what she called the “leaky pipeline” of girls in science.

“We still have a real problem attracting and maintaining women in science,” Chandar said. “While the numbers have improved over the last couple decades, they’re still pretty bad. When you’re losing representation from half your population, that’s not good for the advancement of science.”

In addition to the Girls in Science Program, Ritter Planetarium puts on shows for children regularly, and many of the schools in the area visit for field trips.
UT offers new Child Advocacy Graduate Certificate Program

By Samantha Watson

This fall, The University of Toledo is offering a four-course Child Advocacy Graduate Certificate Program, designed to provide professionals with awareness of child abuse and neglect.

“It’s going to be something that’s very beneficial to a lot of professionals because we all, no matter what professions we are in, are going to come in contact with young people who may need to have advocates and may suffer from child neglect or abuse,” said Dr. Morris Jenkins, UT chair and professor of criminal justice and social work.

The program consists of four 6000-level courses:

• SOCW 6700: Perspective on Child Maltreatment and Child Advocacy;
• CRIM 6710: Profession and System Responses for Child Advocacy;
• COUN 6720: Advocacy for the Survivor of Child Neglect and Abuse; and
• CRIM 6730: Guided Study in Child Advocacy Issues.

The courses will start Monday, Aug. 20, when the fall semester begins, and students can apply through the UT College of Graduate Studies.

The child advocacy courses will be online and taught by professors of criminal justice, social work and counseling. The variety of expertise allows students to gain a better insight of the many different issues of child abuse and neglect, and be able to both recognize and react to situations involving child abuse, said Debra O’Connell, director of patient advocacy.

The Child Advocacy Certificate, which is received when the four courses are successfully completed, is relevant for any individual who wishes to be an advocate for abused and neglected children. Professionals who might find this certificate useful include social workers, lawyers, health-care professionals and educators.

Students in the program must have at least a baccalaureate degree. They are able to take the courses by themselves or complete them along with other courses as part of a Criminal Justice Graduate Degree Program.

Jenkins said the idea for this program came to him when he attended a training conference at Winona State University for the National Child Protection Training Center. While there, he learned that various colleges and universities had both undergraduate and/or graduate programs dealing with child advocacy.

The training conference taught attendees how to recognize child abuse and neglect, and subsequently be able to report incidents in order to provide help for the victims. The usefulness of these skills for professionals who deal with children on a regular basis is what sparked the idea for the certificate program at UT, he said.

Jenkins worked with the Lucas County Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to plan the program. CASA trains adult volunteers to work for the juvenile court judges to advocate for the best interests of the community’s abused and neglected children.

The program will provide students with a general understanding of the need for child advocacy and the moral and legal obligations for reported suspected child abuse or neglect.

For more information, contact O’Connell at debra.oconnell@utoledo.edu or 419.530.5421.

Nursing students provide medical help, hope for homeless

By Samantha Watson

A group of nursing students from The University of Toledo has stepped in to help homeless families at the Family House after the nonprofit organization lost its community-based grant of $82,000.

What began as a simple requirement for nursing students taking a community health nursing class has become an eye-opening experience for many of them. They get hands-on experience working with the families in a small clinic and helping to keep the building clean.

“These service projects help them widen their cultural perceptions,” said Karen Hoblet, UT assistant professor of nursing, who instructs the class. “This course lets them experience how others have to live and encourages them to not judge others.”

The Family House is the largest homeless shelter in northwest Ohio; it serves more than 800 families annually and is located in a YMCA building, which was built in the 1930s.

The building has communal bathrooms and no janitorial staff. Families are expected to keep the place clean, but many have no experience with cleaning, according to Hoblet. When the class arrived, residents complained that the bathrooms were moldy.

Hoblet and her students knew that in order for these families to be healthy, they needed a clean environment. They set to work cleaning the building, especially the bathrooms.

“We harkened back to Florence Nightingale,” Hoblet said. “We want to care for not only the individual, but also for their environmental needs.”

The class also did a fundraising raffle in order to stock the small clinic at the Family House, which needed supplies. The College of Nursing is sponsoring a grant to place nursing students and faculty in the clinic, which is open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon during the semester.

The clinic supplies these families with medical histories to take with them wherever they go, since many do not have medical records. They also refer residents to community-based clinics with specialty services, when needed.

“The Family House provides them with a place to live, food to eat and things like that — but as far as medical care goes, they really don’t have anything or any means of getting that unless someone helps them, which is what we’re there for,” said Jessica Phillips, a fourth-year nursing student, who is taking the class.

Hoblet hopes other colleges get involved with the service as well. For example, she said the College of Engineering could assist by looking into the remediation of the building because it is so outdated.

The group also has reached out to local churches and organizations to find funding for the Family House because it lost so much grant money. The shelter hopes to find funds to replace what it lost, as well as continue work in the clinic.

“We want them to know that somebody is out there for them and that even though things are bad, there are resources out there for them,” Phillips said. “We want them to not give up, not lose hope, and know that this is not the end of the road.”
UT to celebrate 100th birthday of humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg with exhibit

By Samantha Watson

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, in The University of Toledo’s Carlson Library, there will be an exhibit displaying the life of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved nearly 100,000 Jews during World War II.

The exhibit will open at noon, with a reception for this year’s UT Raoul Wallenberg Award scholarship recipient, Carolina Wishner, as well as acknowledgement of Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, professor emeritus of surgery in the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, for his lifetime of teaching and research.

Wallenberg would have turned 100 years old Aug. 4. The Swede undertook a mission at the behest of the U.S. War Refugee Board to go to Budapest in 1944 and saved tens of thousands of Jews by giving them documents that identified them as Swedish nationals. He was arrested by the advancing Soviet Army in January 1945 and was never seen free again.

This centennial exhibit is to celebrate both his life and the thousands of lives that he saved, and will feature art and research from two UT students: Michael Gammo, a junior in the Honors College studying biology, and Alyssa Brown, a senior studying new media.

“It was really inspiring to see the kind of impact that one person can make on other people’s lives,” Brown said. “If he can save 100,000, well, I hope I can save one.”

Gammo began researching the historic hero during spring semester, reading biographies and using references such as Yad Vashem, Israel’s official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“I’m not a big history buff,” Gammo said. “But once you start getting into the story, you really just want to keep reading more and you want to find out why he did this.”

Gammo has several research grants, including a First-Year Summer Research Experience grant in 2010 and a Sullivan grant from the Honors College for research during summer 2011. Both grants were for biology research.

“We needed a person with creative talents to start putting this together,” Gammo said. “That’s when Alyssa Brown was kind enough to offer her services in helping us make it visually appealing and not just boring, science fair-looking posters.”

With the help of Brown, the exhibit will offer posters of facts, pictures and artifacts depicting the life of Wallenberg. It also will feature a sculpture made by Brown, inspired by what Wallenberg accomplished in his lifetime. It will be made of reclaimed wood and thousands of nails to represent the 100,000 lives that he rescued.

“This is my first time doing as large of a show as this, and I’m really looking forward to seeing it all come to fruition,” Brown said.

The accompanying reception will highlight Wishner, who received the scholarship after a lifetime of service to others; she assisted the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and also helped create a 911 system in her home country of Panama.

In addition, Robert Karp, who made the original donation for the scholarship, will honor the work of Hussain, a retired thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon. A member of the UT Board of Trustees, Hussain was a faculty member for more than 30 years at the former Medical College of Ohio.

“The scholarship is given to someone who exemplifies the characteristics that Wallenberg had, and they really are characteristics that students should strive to imitate — not just for the sake of getting a scholarship, but because of a sense of moral obligation,” Gammo said. “Doing what’s right just because it’s right is something that we really need a lot more of.”
Director of UT archaeological research program honored for lifetime achievements

Dr. David M. Stothers, longtime University of Toledo professor of anthropology and archaeology, has received a lifetime achievement award from the Archaeological Society of Ohio.

“Dr. Stothers knows his archaeology and has taught me and others a lot,” said George DeMuth, president of the Sandusky Bay Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Ohio. “He is one professional that is willing to work with us avocationals, and we respect him for that.”

The Archaeological Society of Ohio, founded in 1941, is the oldest and largest archaeology society in the United States, according to the organization’s website. It represents about 3,000 amateur archaeologists across the country.

Robert Converse, editor of the Ohio Archaeologist, presented Stothers with the lifetime achievement award during the society’s quarterly meeting in May. The plaque states it was given “in tribute and recognition for a lifetime of contributions and dedication to the highest standards of research and publication in the science of archaeology.”

Stothers taught archaeology at UT for 38 years and is the director of the Western Lake Erie Archaeological Research Program based at UT.

He continues to do both research and archaeological projects throughout northwest and north central Ohio. He has been directing work on the parallel ditches and other areas at the Heckleman Archaeological Research Project site near Milan, Ohio, the past five summers.

Stothers also has directed efforts at the Seaman’s Fort and Taylor sites in Erie County the past 20 years. In addition, he has been involved in the Bear Fort, Miller’s Ridge and Petersen archaeological sites.

“Too many professionals overlook the contributions that can be made by avocationals in finding sites in particular and working excavations under professional supervision,” Stothers said. “I couldn’t have accomplished all I’ve done without their cooperation.”

New class of American Chemical Society Fellows features UT associate professor

When the American Chemical Society (ACS) meets in Philadelphia for its national meeting later this month, the prestigious body will honor a longtime University of Toledo faculty member.

Dr. Andy Jorgensen, associate professor of chemistry, was selected as a member of the 2012 class of ACS Fellows. This group was nominated by their peers and selected not only for their achievements in and contributions to the sciences, but also for volunteer service to the ACS community.

“Dr. Jorgensen’s dedication to his profession and to teaching are well-known across campus,” said Dr. Karen Bjorkman, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. “This recognition is very well-deserved and serves as further evidence of the outstanding faculty we have in the college and at UT.”

The lifetime fellowship comes as Jorgensen marks his 35th year as a member of the American Chemical Society and his 12th year as the elected representative for the Toledo local section.

“The American Chemical Society is a leader in the areas of chemical education, scientific advancement and outreach to the public,” Jorgensen said. “I am proud to be a member of the organization and am honored to be selected as a 2012 Fellow.”

The 2012 ACS Fellows will be honored at a special ceremony Monday, Aug. 20. The full membership of the 2012 class was listed in the July 23 issue of Chemical & Engineering News.

In memoriam

Delwin N. Ketterman, Toledo and Marblehead, Ohio, a longtime part-time faculty member of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, died July 21 at age 75. He received a bachelor’s degree in education in 1960 from the University, where he played football for the Rockets. Ketterman was a member of the UT Alumni Association and the Varsity T Club.

Look for the next issue of UT News Aug. 20
Another academic award recently rolled in for The University of Toledo women’s volleyball program when it received the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for the 2011-12 school year.

It is the 12th straight season the Rockets have received the prestigious award.

The Rocket volleyball program led the UT Athletic Department in both semesters this past academic year with an impressive 3.641 cumulative grade-point average in the spring after posting a 3.613 GPA in the fall.

Initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, the award honors colleges that displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team GPA during the entire school year. Toledo was one of a record 103 NCAA Division I institutions to be honored.

Toledo will open its 2012 campaign under fourth-year Head Coach Greg Smith when it travels to Columbus for the Ohio State Sports Imports Classic Friday and Saturday, Aug. 24-25.

UT fans can get a sneak preview of the team at the Blue-Gold Match Friday, Aug. 17, at 7 p.m. in Savage Arena.

The Rockets will open the 2012 home schedule with the Rocket Classic Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7-8. UT will host Florida Gulf Coast, Illinois State and Memphis in the tournament.

Photo by Daniel Miller
Golf outing to be held in memory of faculty member

By Aaron Horn

Employees at The University of Toledo are organizing a golf outing to pay tribute to a late colleague, longtime nurse educator Jackie Ayers.

The Wacky Jackie Golf Benefit will be held Friday, Aug. 17, at Valleywood Golf Course in Swanton, Ohio, in support of the UT Medical Center Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group.

This event is coordinated by UT retiree Kathy McVicker and Sherry Andrews, director of the Center for Creative Instruction.

“Jackie was one of those people you simply don’t forget,” said Andrews, who was partners with Ayers in a UT women’s golf league. “We will remember her by participating in one of her favorite pastimes on her birthday.”

Ayers was a nurse, alumna and retired faculty member of the former Medical College of Ohio who lost her battle with breast cancer in March. She also owned a health-care business and was an avid community volunteer, serving as a board member for Hospice of Northwest Ohio and the Zepf Center, and as a disaster worker for the American Red Cross and a docent at the Toledo Museum of Art.

“I found Jackie witty, articulate, direct and open in her communication with faculty and with her students,” said Nancy Brown-Schott, UT assistant professor of nursing. “From her experience and expertise, she was able to provide insight and add to the community health nursing curriculum.”

After her second cancer diagnosis, Ayers became involved with the Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group at the UT Cancer Center.

“Jackie was an advocate for patients and was willing to continue that even during her own cancer journey,” said Janelle Tipton, UTMC oncology clinical nurse and co-facilitator for the cancer support group. “She knew that education and support were valuable to many patients with metastatic breast cancer and was willing to support this cause through our efforts with the support group.

“Women with metastatic breast cancer have a different perspective and often different goals than those who have early stage breast cancer. Jackie understood that and helped others see that by living her life to the fullest while she was here.”

The Wacky Jackie Golf Benefit is open to the community. Registration is $75 per person and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, boxed lunch, drink tickets, a golfer’s gift bag and awards dinner in the Valleywood Clubhouse.

Registrations will be accepted at wackyjackiegolf.com until the day of the event.