Liver could be key to mitigating brain damage from meth abuse

By Meghan Cunningham

The key to limiting long-term brain damage caused by methamphetamine abuse could rest in the liver, according to research under way at The University of Toledo.

“We can’t look at the brain in isolation,” said Dr. Bryan Yamamoto, professor and chair of the UT Department of Neurosciences. “We know the impact alcohol abuse has on the liver, and there is evidence of comorbidity of people abusing both alcohol and methamphetamine. But this will be the first time research is focused first on how meth abuse itself affects the liver and then in turn the brain.”

The long-term brain damage from methamphetamine abuse is a result of too much of the amino acid glutamate and free radicals in the brain. It is Yamamoto’s theory that the excess glutamate is caused from the excess ammonia that cannot be metabolized by the liver.

If proven with his research, which was recently funded with a $1.55 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, then early medical intervention could mitigate the long-term effects on the brain, which include destroying dopamine nerve cells that damage cognitive abilities and limit the ability to move. Chronic abuse also leads to psychotic behavior and even death.

“If a person enters the emergency room high on methamphetamine, the physicians could initiate a pharmacological treatment to help eliminate the excess ammonia in the body before it has the opportunity to wreak havoc on the brain and the rest of the body,” said Yamamoto, who has been studying the impact of drugs such as methamphetamine and ecstasy on the brain for more than 20 years.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Drug Abuse Warning Network, emergency department visits

Sex trafficking conference at UT to share advances in addressing issue

By Meghan Cunningham

Hundreds of thousands of women, boys and girls each year are forced to sell their bodies as victims of sex trafficking. It happens around the world, and it certainly happens in the United States, in every community, in Toledo, Ohio.

While reports show that of those cities with federal Innocence Lost Task Forces, Toledo is the third largest city for human trafficking and sex slavery, it also is home to one of the largest international conferences to combat the issue.

The Ninth Annual International Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Sex Work Conference will take place Thursday and Friday, Sept. 27-28, at The University of Toledo to share the latest in research, advocacy and programs to effectively respond.

“Sex trafficking does not only happen in other countries or other communities. It permeates our society in a way that would shock most people,” said Dr. Celia Williamson, UT professor of social work and founder of Second Chance, a social service program located in Toledo that provides comprehensive assistance to victims of domestic sex trafficking and prostitution.

Rockets win Cartwright Award honoring top overall MAC school for 2011-12 season

By Paul Helgren

The Mid-American Conference (MAC) announced today the presentation of the Cartwright Award to the University of Toledo for its program excellence in academics, athletics and citizenship during the 2011-12 school year.

“Everyone associated with the MAC is proud of the many student-athletes that compete in all of our universities and each of our 23 championship sports,” said Dr. Jon Steinbrecher, MAC commissioner. “MAC member institutions value excellence in the classroom, on the field of competition and in society. I commend The University of Toledo for this recognition by its peers. This is indeed a high honor.”

The Cartwright Award is an institutional prize presented annually to one MAC university. A committee with representation from all 12 institutions selected the Cartwright Award winner from nominations submitted based upon the criteria of excellence in academics, athletics and citizenship. The award began in 2008-09. This is the first time UT has received the honor.

“I can’t imagine better ambassadors for The University of Toledo than our student-athletes whose excellence on the playing field is matched only by their efforts in the classroom and in the community,” said UT President Lloyd Jacobs, who praised the important leadership role Dr. Cartwright provided to the MAC during her tenure.

“Congratulations to Athletic Director Mike O’Brien, Toledo coaches, staff and, most importantly, to our student-athletes.”
Student Affairs joins Provost’s Office to create new synergies

By Tobin J. Klinger

One of the new components of Dr. Scott Scarborough’s portfolio will be the addition of the Division of Student Affairs to the Provost’s Office. Effective immediately, Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace and her team will join the staff in the Division of Academic Affairs in an effort to align efforts to enhance the student experience inside and outside of the classroom.

“We will define the student experience in the broadest of terms,” said Scarborough, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “It’s everything from the services we provide, to the meals we serve, to the delivery of transcripts, to the learning experience in the classroom. This addition will enable us to better meet the needs of our students by enhancing their experience across the board.”

Patten Wallace will have the new title of senior vice president for the student experience, which will formalize much of the work she has done in recent years as chair of the Student Experience Steering Committee.

“This change represents a tremendous opportunity to create new synergies that will have a very direct benefit to our students,” Patten Wallace said. “As the student experience steering committee has looked to make student-centeredness a core value across the institution, we have found tremendous overlap between student and academic affairs. This move will enable us to take action and bring about immediate improvements that will improve the lives of our students.”

“It is important to note that the Division of Student Affairs remains a significant part of Kaye’s portfolio. The expansion of her role will include all facets of the student experience,” Scarborough said. “It is imperative that the professionals across the Division of Student Affairs recognize that they are a part of a team that has an overarching mission of excellence in service to our students inside and outside the classroom. Together, we can meet that goal and exceed the expectations of our students.”

The award is named in honor of Dr. Carol Cartwright, one of the most respected voices in higher education. Cartwright served as the president of Kent State University from 1991 to 2006 and president of Bowling Green from 2008 to 2011. She previously was the vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California at Davis and dean for undergraduate programs and vice provost at the Pennsylvania State University. She has served on the NCAA Board of Directors and is a member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

“We are very honored to receive the Cartwright Award for the 2011-12 academic year,” said UT Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien. “This award is a tribute to the incredible efforts of our student-athletes, as well as countless others who aid in their overall development — coaches, classroom instructors, mentors, administrators and parents.

“In the past year, we have won numerous Mid-American Conference championships and other athletic honors. We have been awarded the Jacoby Trophy for the top overall women’s program in the MAC, the Academic Achievement Award for highest grade point average in the conference, and now the Cartwright Award, which honors all facets of student-athlete achievement, including community service. The Cartwright Award caps an incredible year of achievement for our athletic program on the playing field, in the classroom and in the community. It truly is a great time to be a Rocket.”

To read a summary of the 2011-12 accomplishments by UT in the areas of academic, athletic and citizenship excellence, go to myut.utoledo.edu.

Meth abuse

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of people on central nervous system stimulations, such as meth, increased 196 percent from 2004 to 2010 with more than 31,500 visits in 2010.

Meth abuse and manufacturing is increasing not only in the United States, but also around the world. It has even made its way into popular culture with the AMC television show “Breaking Bad” about a high school chemistry teacher who begins “cooking” the drug after being diagnosed with terminal cancer to earn money to support his family.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1.2 million Americans age 12 and older in 2009 had abused methamphetamine at least once the past year.

Methamphetamine’s popularity is increasing because of how easily and inexpensively it can be “cooked,” despite efforts to control the drugs and chemicals used to manufacture it, Yamamoto said. The drug is most commonly smoked or injected and causes a euphoric feeling when the brain releases the chemical dopamine, which is a neurotransmitter that controls pleasure.

While North America accounts for most of the methamphetamine operations, with 82 percent of the number of meth labs seized in 2007 according to the United Nationals Office on Drugs and Crime World Drug Report 2009, manufacturing is a growing concern around the world with the most notable increases in east and southeast Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

Sex trafficking

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“The victims of this heinous crime need our support, and the perpetrators of underage prostitution need harsher penalties. It is imperative that researchers, social workers, health-care professionals and criminal justice professionals work together collaboratively to combat this problem,” she said.

The oldest and largest of its kind in the U.S., the conference will feature more than 40 presentations from experts, including survivor and author Theresa Flores, who will talk about survivors finding their voices, and representatives from the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking in Denver, who will present research on the influences of law enforcement attitudes on investigations.

State Rep. Teresa Fedor also will provide information about the new Safe Harbor human trafficking legislation signed by Gov. John Kasich this year that strengthens penalties for perpetrators of underage prostitution and protects juvenile victims of prostitution.

A number of trafficking survivors will share their stories, and researchers from around the world will convene to share knowledge about the personalities of “Johns” and the damaging effects of sexualizing children. In total, seven countries and 12 U.S. states will be represented.

For registration details and more information on the conference, visit prostitutionconference.com.
College of Business dean to assume leadership role in Provost’s Office

By Tobin J. Klinger

As Dr. Scott Scarborough, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, begins to implement a new vision for the Office of the Provost, he’s looking to a familiar face to help lead the transition.

Dr. Tom Gutteridge has served as the dean of the College of Business and Innovation since 2003, but as of Oct. 1, he will assume the role of senior vice provost and dean of academic administration.

“Tom has long been a leader among our deans, helping to shape the future of our university through his service as co-chair of the committee that developed the institution’s strategic plan,” Scarborough said. “Now we are hoping that he can help us pull together a new, strategic vision for academic affairs.”

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work alongside Scott as he works to re-tool the Office of the Provost by blending our commitment to academic excellence with a passion for student-centeredness,” Gutteridge said. “This role will provide me with the opportunity to continue working with my fellow deans to advance the University’s mission, while keeping me connected to the college that I am so proud to have led for these past nine years.”

Dr. Tom Sharkey, associate professor and director of the Global Business Development Institute, will serve as interim dean of the College of Business and Innovation.

“The College of Business and Innovation is among the finest in the nation,” Scarborough said. “I am confident that Dr. Sharkey will help us continue to grow its reputation of distinction.”

To apply for an incubation space, the center requires minority-owned businesses to have the following:

- Executive summary and/or business plan;
- Four to six months of working capital;
- Service-oriented, light manufacturing or general construction trades;
- Potential to produce significant revenues in four to six years; and
- Intent to remain in the Toledo business community.

Interested businesses can apply for the remaining spaces through the center’s website at utoledo.edu/incubator/mbdc/index.html. The center will review all submission materials and require the applicants to participate in an interview process.

For more information, contact Johnson at 419.466.0337 or at erik.johnson@utoledo.edu.
UT student wins one of two civil engineering scholarships in Ohio

By Casey Cheap

A passion for engineering that began in high school has led a University of Toledo senior to win this year’s Ohio Minority Engineering Student Scholarship.

Demar Watkins, a senior majoring in civil engineering, won the $2,500 award for the 2012-13 school year; he is one of just two recipients in Ohio to receive the scholarship.

“I am very blessed, very excited about the scholarship. It helps out a lot and takes some of the financial burden off my parents,” Watkins said.

The scholarship is presented by the Ohio Black Legislative Caucus Foundation, the National Society of Black Engineers, CT Consultants Inc. and New Visions Group LLC to provide financial assistance and potential internship possibilities within the civil engineering programs at accredited Ohio colleges or universities.

“It just seems natural. I can see myself doing this after I graduate,” Watkins said about his major in civil engineering.

The scholarship is open to any African-American students with a 3.0 GPA in high school and a 2.5 while in college who is working toward a civil engineering degree.

Watkins encouraged students to apply for scholarships: “I would honestly just say you have to apply. A lot of people are skeptical about it and second-guess [scholarship offers], but you never know. Don’t shoot yourself down before you apply.”

His job at the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority ties in directly with his major. He is completing a co-op as an engineering intern.

“With civil engineering, there is a lot of project management skills, which is a lot like my responsibility at the port authority.”

Ohio legislature candidates to discuss energy issues

By Brian Purdue

Candidates for the Ohio general assembly will discuss renewable energy and energy efficiency Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in UT’s Scott Park Auditorium.

The free, public forum will serve to better inform voters about the policies and decisions that are essential in developing clean and renewable energy.

Attendees will learn where each of the candidates stands on these policies and will have opportunity to ask questions about clean energy laws, jobs and innovation in Ohio.

Listed by districts, the confirmed list of invited candidates is:

- Ohio Senate District 2: Rep. Randy Gardner and Jeff Bretz;
- Ohio House District 3: Tim Brown, Nathan Eberly and Kelly Wicks;
- Ohio House District 44: Rep. Michael Ashford;
- Ohio House District 45: Rep. Teresa Fedor;
- Ohio House District 46: Rep. Matt Szollosi and David Kissinger; and

Further information may be found at CandidateNight.com.
Oct. 5 deadline for Lake Erie Center Photo Contest

Take your best shot and enter the 2012 Lake Erie Center Photo Contest.

The theme is “The Nature of Maumee Bay.” Subjects may include nature associated with the Maumee Bay and/or the Maumee River: wildlife, plants, landscapes and people interacting with their environment.

Entries must be received by Friday, Oct. 5. Send photos to Meredith Gray at meredith.gray@utoledo.edu. There is a five-photo limit per person and a 15 megabyte limit per email.

Prizes, including $50 VISA gift cards, will be given in five categories: adult, special needs adult, teen, youth and junior youth.

All photos submitted for the contest will be featured in an exhibition at the Lake Erie Center and posted on its website and Facebook page.

For more information, go to utoledo.edu/nsm/lec.

GIMME SHELTER: Art student Kevin Leiter used twine in a tree to make an installation at Stranahan Arboretum. He is one of 11 students who created works and performances for “Shelter.” “The temporary works included in this outdoor exhibition examine the varied ways in which the word ‘shelter’ can be interpreted,” said Barbara Miner, UT associate professor of art. An opening reception and performance will take place Saturday, Sept. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Stranahan Arboretum, 4131 Tantara Road. Refreshments will be served at the free, public event. “Shelter” will be on display for at least one week after the opening, according to Miner. The arboretum is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Internet Marketing Conference set for Oct. 2

By Bob Mackowiak

Registration is open for the University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation’s Fourth Annual Internet Marketing Conference scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 2, from 7:30 a.m. until noon in the Student Union.

“This conference follows the three very successful Internet Marketing Conferences conducted by the UT Interactive Marketing Initiative from 2009 to 2011, and is intended to build upon and expand the knowledge areas addressed in previous years,” said Dr. Iryna Pentina, co-director of the UT Internet Marketing Initiative.

The simple truth is that Internet marketing techniques are now a requirement for business success,” she said. “This conference brings together Internet marketing experts and practitioners and offers exclusive networking opportunities, featured speakers, an exhibition area, and break-out sessions. The goal is to have participants leave this half-day conference with the game plan and ideas they need to take positive action to advance their businesses in today’s digital age.”

The keynote address by nationally known marketing expert Joe Pulizzi of Content Marketing Institute will focus on digital marketing strategies from the perspective of storytelling.

Other topics and speakers at the conference will be:
- “Social Media Marketing Segmentation” by Jeff Rohrs of ExactTarget;
- “Mobile Apps Development” by Jason Therrien, president of thunder.tech;
- “Using Video to Market Your Business” by Kelley Hynds, president and executive producer, Hyndsign Productions; and
- “Marketing Automation” by Derek Grant of Pardot

The presenting sponsor for the Internet Marketing Conference is TOAST.net, a nationwide Internet service provider and hosting company.

Companies and individuals interested in attending this year’s event are encouraged to register soon as previous conferences have sold out and seats for the 2012 program are limited. Group discounts are available, and exhibitor opportunities have been expanded.

Registration and exhibitor information can be found at utinternetmarketing.info.

Student business group selling calendars to raise funds

The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation Students in Free Enterprise 2012-13 calendar is available for purchase.

“Putting a Students in Free Enterprise calendar in your office or room is a great and convenient way to keep track of upcoming UT games, events and holidays,” said Tyler Detter, president of the UT Students in Free Enterprise chapter. “It is also an attractive addition to any wall as it features beautiful photos of the UT campus.”

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar support the organization’s educational and community outreach programs, which includes providing tax services, offering financial literacy classes to college students, and teaching success skills to high school students.

The price of the calendar is $8.

To purchase one, contact Detter at tyler.detter@rockets.utoledo.edu or Dr. Sonny Ariss, professor and chair of the Management Department, at sonny.ariss@utoledo.edu.

Do You Have A Great Business Idea?

The University of Toledo faculty, staff, students and alumni* are invited to participate in a business plan competition detailing your unique and innovative business idea.

Innovation Enterprises at UT is providing prize money of:
- First place: $10,000
- Second place: $5,000
- PNC Bank Award: $2,000
- *Third place award provided by PNC Bank
- Honorable Mention: $500

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Shipping and Receiving to move

The University of Toledo Supply Chain Operations announces the move of Main Campus Shipping and Receiving from 1615 N. Westwood Ave. to 328 Westwood Ave.

Shipping and Receiving will continue to serve Main Campus and all related off-site locations from its new space starting Monday, Oct. 1.

“The new facility offers three receiving docks compared to the single opening at the old facility,” Kelly Puente, supply chain manager, said. “In addition to the docks, the parking and turn-around lot will be easier for the transport vehicles to navigate, leading to less congestion and faster delivery and pickup times.”

In order to facilitate the move to the new location, Main Campus Shipping and Receiving will close Friday, Sept. 28, at noon and re-open Monday, Oct. 1, at 8 a.m.

The phone number will remain 419.530.3400.

For questions concerning the transition, contact Bill Mawhorter, supervisor of shipping and receiving, at 419.383.5085.

Bowling fundraiser Sept. 29 for Yell & Tell

Hit the lanes with the UT electricians to raise funds for Yell & Tell: Stop Child Abuse Now Inc.

The fifth annual bowling fundraiser and silent auction will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at noon at Interstate Lanes, 819 Lime City Road in Rossford.

Items up for bid include a sunset trip aboard a 25-foot sailboat on Maumee Bay good through summer 2013, a romantic getaway at the Belamere Suites Hotel in Perrysburg, car batteries, massage sessions and pizza certificates.

“We would like to top last year so even if you don’t bowl, come on out and support the cause,” said George Hayes, UT journeyman electrician.

The event raised $3,000 in 2011 for Yell & Tell: Stop Child Abuse Now Inc., according to Hayes.

Pamela Crabtree, a retired UT business services officer, founded the nonprofit organization in 2003 to educate the community on ways to prevent, detect and report child abuse.

“Child abuse is reported every 10 seconds,” Crabtree said. “Five to six children die each day as a result of child abuse or neglect in this country.

“With child maltreatment statistics increasing, the message to educate and protect our future, our most precious population — our children — must be proclaimed loudly and continuously,” she said. “Your actions, by supporting Yell & Tell, exemplify your commitment to our children and to our future.”

The cost to compete in the bowling tournament is $12 per person.

Register in advance on yelltell.org, or email yelltell@accessutoledo.com, or call Crabtree at 419.764.9302 or Hayes at 419.343.6988.

Letter

My family and I had the privilege of attending the BG-UT football game last weekend, and I wanted to take a moment to let you know how well we were treated by everyone associated with UT.

It was my first time on your campus for a football game, and I was expecting less than cordial treatment given the intensity of the rivalry.

I could not have been more wrong. Your students and staff were great and treated my entire family with respect.

The UT Alumni Association even invited my parents, aunts and uncle — who were wearing BG attire — into its tent for free food.

Although the game was a disappointment to us, your fans and staff certainly were not. Thanks to everyone for your hospitality.

Steve Tate
Bowling Green State University parent
Cake, Rattle & Roll

Thursday, Sept. 27
5:30-8 p.m.
Savage Arena

Tickets: $50 per person
RSVP by Sept. 20

Join us for a fun evening of cakewalks, music by Nine Lives, dinner, live auctions and more!

To purchase tickets, contact Katie DeBenedictis, coordinator of women’s basketball, by Sept. 20 at katie.debenedictis@utoledo.edu or 419.530.2363.

All proceeds go to the UT Women’s Basketball Program.