Student on U.S. National Karate Team to compete at world championships

Tommy Pitzen, a student studying criminal justice at The University of Toledo, will represent the United States at the fourth annual World Kickboxing Council World Championships this week, Tuesday through Sunday, Oct. 2-7.

The U.S. National Karate team will go head to head with approximately 30 other countries in the championships, which will be held in Montreal.

“I’m excited to fight against people that I’ve never competed against,” Pitzen said. “I’ve been all over the country and a little into Canada, but to an extent you don’t really get that international flavor.”

Pitzen placed second at the March 10 regional qualifier in Toledo and went on to win the June 9 national qualifier in Detroit. The top four at each regional qualifier advanced to compete at the national level, and the top four at the national qualifier made the American team.

He has been training in martial arts for 16 years and competing for 11. He has won several state and national championships, as well as a world title in 2002 in Panama City.

Sugar anything but sweet on cancer, chemistry researcher proves

Carbs as cancer fighters? They could represent the next wave of treatment for the disease. As medical researchers worldwide race to develop a viable cancer vaccine, a UT chemistry lab headed by Dr. Peter Andreana has identified a promising new approach that entails carbohydrates.

Andreana, a professor in the Department of Chemistry who joined UT earlier this year from Wayne State University, was quick to explain the split between pasta-and-pastries carbs that can derail a diet plan and the tumor-associated carbohydrate antigens being studied in his lab under a $1.5 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health.

“ Sugars — which are carbohydrates — can actually be beneficial from an immunological perspective,” he said, citing successes such as Pneumovax 23, a carbohydrate-based vaccine effective against streptococcus pneumonia.

Despite such victories in the fight against bacterial diseases, Andreana
A striking poster from the 1900s. A grave at Arlington National Cemetery. Three generations of decorated military members from one bloodline.

These pieces of a mystery have threads leading directly to Toledo. During an episode of PBS’ “History Detectives” airing locally Tuesday, Oct. 1, and Saturday, Oct. 13, UT student DeMarqus Townsend helps unravel the mystery at the most sacred of burial grounds.

It began with a phone call in April. Townsend’s mother, Toledoan Tara Johnson, was asked about a poster that depicted an African-American soldier in the fury of battle during World War I.

She knew the poster well, even has a copy in her Kansas City, Mo., business office. The image is based on an incident involving her grandfather, Henry Lincoln Johnson, a former member of the U.S. Army National Guard’s 369th Infantry, who fought heroically, yet died in his early 30s, penniless and unrecognized.

“The producers of ‘History Detectives’ said the host of the show had this poster he’d bought at an auction,” Johnson explained. “They wanted some feedback from the family about the events depicted on the poster and invited us to Arlington.”

Once producers learned Townsend, 32, is a Marine who’d fought in the First Battle of Fallujah, Afghanistan, in 2004, he was invited to join the taping.

Mother and son waited for “History Detectives” host Tukufu Zuberi at Henry Johnson’s gravestone at Arlington National Cemetery; they brought medals that had been awarded posthumously, including the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross from the U.S. government, as well as the Croix de Guerre, France’s highest national award.

“The host was surprised to see members of Henry Johnson’s family,” Townsend said. “He thought he was meeting a military official. We got to take his position on the show; usually guests give the host an object and get him to find the story behind it. This time, we had the answers to his poster.”

Highly unusual for its racial undertones reflecting its time, the poster depicts the savagery of battle, with Henry Johnson brandishing a knife and fallen German soldiers at his boots. The visual is based on an incident that occurred on a French battlefield in 1918. Ambushed by a German platoon, Johnson and fellow Allied infantryman Needham Roberts were injured by grenades and gunfire. Despite his injuries, Johnson repelled the Germans using only a bolo knife and a defective rifle.

The taping at his great-grandfather’s grave was not Townsend’s first visit. His mother and grandfather, Herman Johnson — Henry’s son who grew up to be a Tuskegee Airman, noted businessman and civil rights activist — had spoken of Henry Johnson often. Such history factored into Townsend’s decision to enlist in the Marine Corps at age 21.

After he became a veteran himself, Townsend sought a kindred grace with the great-grandfather he’d never met.

“I went to his grave to have his spirit with me,” Townsend said. “Coming out of Fallujah and having been in combat myself, I found a lot of peace at Arlington.”

The “History Detectives” taping, he and his mother spoke at length about Henry Johnson’s life after World War I. Branded “Black Death” for his tenacity in battle, Johnson returned to his native New York a war hero, but quickly discovered that racism trumped battlefield bravery.

“The host asked how we felt about my great-grandfather being a war hero, but being treated like he was not,” Townsend said. “A lot of his fellow soldiers served their country heroically, but came home and faced the same discrimination they endured when they left. It’s different for me; I have the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs] and other support that helped me transition out of a combative mind. My grandfather had neither that, nor a fair trade in society because of his skin color.”

Johnson said her grandfather’s legacy slowly has been revealed. Decades of pressure from family members and well-positioned friends have brought military accolades and civic recognition, but the family believes Henry Johnson has earned an additional milestone.

“There’s one medal that is given by the commander in chief, and that’s the Congressional Medal of Honor,” Townsend said. “I grew up hearing that my great-grandfather was an honorable man who performed with courage during the war. For President Obama to bestow the medal of honor would be the ultimate recognition.”

Henry Johnson’s application for the Congressional Medal of Honor is under consideration. The family has no timeline for when determination will be made.

“My grandfather was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things,” Johnson said. “If you live an honorable life, that’s supposed to be worth something. He didn’t get recognition when he was alive. I want to make sure he does [now].”

Although he is no longer an active duty Marine, the legacy of military service lingers in DeMarqus Townsend. A freshman at UT, he is studying psychology with the goal of opening a private practice to assist veterans returning from combat.

DeMarqus Townsend’s and Tara Johnson’s recollections of Henry Johnson will be featured in the “Our Colored Heroes” segment of “History Detectives” on the PBS Bowling Green and Detroit affiliates Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 8 p.m. and on Toledo’s WGTE Saturday, Oct. 13, at 8 p.m.
Media critic to speak on ‘Images of Arabs and Muslims in Popular Culture’ at Mikhail Memorial Lecture Oct. 7

Dr. Jack G. Shaheen, internationally acclaimed author and media critic, will deliver the 12th annual Maryse and Ramzy Mikhail Memorial Lecture Sunday, Oct. 7, at 3:30 p.m. in the Richard & Jane McQuade Law Center Auditorium.

Shaheen has given more than 1,000 lectures in nearly all the 50 states and on three continents. Among those universities that have welcomed him are Oxford, Amherst, Brown, Emory, Harvard, the University of Southern California, West Point, as well as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the White House Truman Center. World capitals where he has spoken include London, Berlin, Paris, Prague, New Delhi, Cairo and Istanbul.

He has consulted with the United Nations, the Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division and New York City’s Commission on Civil Rights. In cooperation with the United States government, he has conducted communication seminars throughout the Middle East.


His writings include 300-plus essays in publications such as Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, as well as chapters on media stereotypes in dozens of college textbooks. He has appeared on national network programs on CNN, MSNBC and National Public Radio. And Shaheen has served as a consultant with film and TV companies, including DreamWorks, Warner Brothers, Hanna-Barbera and Showtime.

An Oxford Research Scholar, Shaheen is the recipient of two Fulbright teaching awards. He holds degrees from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Missouri.

Shaheen won the University of Pennsylvania’s Janet Lee Stevens Award for his “outstanding contribution toward a better understanding of our global community,” the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee’s Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of “his lifelong commitment to bring a better understanding toward peace for all mankind,” and the Pancho Be Award for “the advancement of humanity.” Pancho Be, a Mayan phrase, means to seek the root of truth.

The Mikhail Lecture is made possible through the Maryse and Ramzy Mikhail Endowment Fund, established in 2000 by the Mikhail family.

“The purpose of the Mikhail Fund is to support an annual lecture dealing with Arab culture, literature, history, politics, economics or other broadly defined aspects of life in the Middle East,” said Dr. Samir Abu-Abis, UT professor emeritus of English and member of the Mikhail Memorial Lecture Committee. “The committee is very excited about this year’s program as it addresses some very timely issues related to the proliferation of negative images of Arabs and Muslims in the media and popular culture.”

The lecture is co-sponsored by the UT College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences with WGTE as media sponsor and with support from the UT College of Law International Law Society.

For more information, contact Abu-Abis at samir.abu-abis@utoledo.edu.

Memorial for theatre professor set for Nov. 3 on Main Campus

Faculty, staff, alumni and students are invited to remember William R. Smith, professor emeritus of theatre, Saturday, Nov. 3, in the Center for Performing Arts.

The man known for detailed set and costume designs died Sept. 14 at age 74 in his Toledo home.

Join family and friends at 4 p.m. in the lobby for drinks and hors d’oeuvres. The memorial will begin at 4:45 p.m.; cake and coffee will be served in the lobby after the service.

Smith joined the UT Department of Theatre in 1972, and his creativity was in the spotlight. He conceptualized and supervised construction of costumes for more than 50 University productions, including “Evita,” “The House of Blue Leaves,” “Our Town,” “The Glass Menagerie,” “Ring Around the Moon” and “Travesties.”

His set designs graced the stage for “The Visit,” “The Measures Taken,” “The Way of the World,” “The Miser,” “Dangerous Liaisons” and “Monkey Music.”

Smith’s baritone voice echoed throughout the theater during rehearsals for UT plays that he directed: “Candide,” “Agnes of God,” “Medea,” “The Scarf,” “Equus,” “Chicago” and “Bent.”

In 1992, he was named professor emeritus.

Tributes are suggested to the William R. Smith Alumni Fund, which will be used for student professional development to cover the cost of travel and registration for conferences, as well as to bring in visiting artists to conduct workshops. Contributions through the UT Foundation can be made online at https://give2ut.utoledo.edu.

In memoriam

Maybelle Waldeck, Toledo, a clerk typist in the UT library in 1969 and 1970, died Sept. 25 at age 87.
Book artist to present talk

Elizabeth Tonnard, an artist and poet working in the areas of artists’ books, photography and conceptual literature, will talk about her work Wednesday, Oct. 10, at noon in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library.

Since 2003, Tonnard has published 25 books, which are included in numerous private and public collections. Her work features how visual culture and visual events are seen in the light of literature.

Her books have won numerous awards, including the jury prize of the Sheffield International Artists’ Book Prize last year for *A Dialogue in Useful Phrases*. Her works have been exhibited widely, and she is a member of the Artists’ Book Cooperative.

A total of 100 numbered copies of *The Invisible Book* and *We Are Small* were printed this year.

Tonnard received a master of arts degree in literature from Radboud University in the Netherlands, and a master of fine arts degree from the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, N.Y. She lives and works in the Netherlands.

A reception will follow her free, public talk.

For more information, contact David Remaklus of Carlson Library at 419.530.4030.

Cancer

*continued from p. 1*

noted another area: “Viral and chronic diseases such as malaria, cancer, HIV — can carbohydrates be used to mount an immunological attack against them?”

It’s not as though no one has made the attempt, he said, but thus far, such carbohydrate-based vaccines have failed. He believes he knows the reason.

First, a bit of basic biological chemistry. When invading pathogens attack, the human immune system responds with a layered system of natural defenses. Specific cell types play specialized roles in the immune response.

Some principal players: T cells, the white blood cells that figure prominently in the cell-mediated immune response; and B cells, which function in the humoral immune response (mediated by secreted antibodies).

Carbohydrates have long been known to elicit an immune response with B cells that commonly generate particular antibodies called IgM, Andreana explained. However, long-lasting immunity requires the engagement of T cells as well. If T cell stimulation was needed, proteins and peptides were the routes traditionally utilized in research models.

It’s worked well in the development of vaccines against bacterial diseases. However, success has been elusive in developing cancer vaccines.

That’s the quest on which Andreana and his team set their sights. “We sifted though a mass of research literature,” he said. “The majority of work done in the field of developing carbohydrate-based cancer vaccines has been done on the carbohydrate Thomsen-Nouveau antigen — Tn for short.”

Of the several carbohydrate-based antigens that exist on the surface of cancer cells, Tn is the simplest, making it easier for Andreana’s laboratory to synthesize its derivatives for testing.

During their review of related research, Andreana’s group found a paper showing for the first time that a T-cell-mediated immune response could be elicited by a capsular polysaccharide (PS A1) — which is a sugar, thus a carbohydrate — from a bacterial source existing in the human intestine.

“This was an enormous discovery — paradigm changing,” Andreana said.

“PS A1 is made up of repeating tetrameric units that grows to a size of 120 to 140 repeating units. The polysaccharide is unique in that it contains a special charge character, one that is believed to be responsible for its biological activity.

“I was captivated by the fact that these things are behaving like proteins. What if, I thought, we take advantage of this known motif?”

Thus, his research team chemically modified one of PS A1’s sugars to produce a semi-synthetic vaccine made up of PS A1 and cancer antigen Tn. Using a traditional immune study, they injected the modified carbohydrate-immunogen into mice.

What they found was extraordinary: The chemically modified polysaccharides evolved IgG3 antibodies — which are carbox-specific and the result of isotope switching, the process necessary to T cells being activated.

“We were ecstatic,” Andreana recalled.

His team also determined that these antibodies generated in mice can bind to human tumor cells. They’ve published a paper this year on that topic.

Corroboration was needed, he said: “We’re just naive chemists, so when we first got some of these biological results, I didn’t even believe them. We connected with collaborators, including 21st Century Therapeutics and Henry Ford Health Systems. They were able to reproduce our results.”

A subsequent cyto-toxicity assay using human tumor cells in a Petri dish showed that the lab’s antibodies do have a function in killing the cells. In mice that cannot generate an immune response, injecting the antibodies resulted in slowed tumor growth.

As his team evolves into the area of immuno-therapeutics, Andreana’s optimism burns high: “We’re excited about bringing the NIH grant to The University of Toledo, not only to expand on the work we’ve done, but develop something new.

“In three years, I’d like to be able to come back and report we have IgG3 antibodies based on an entirely carbohydrate construct and they can be used to kill tumor cells effectively.”

Previous new models, he noted, resulted in drugs that include Rituxan to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia and Herceptin for breast cancer. “As of six or seven years ago, there were only a handful of such immuno-therapeutics on the market, but now there are about 40. That’s the realm we want to take our research.

We have the evidence to support the potential, but we have to move systematically. What I really hope to achieve is for people in UT’s College of Medicine to see potential collaboration.”

Academic partnerships are key to great research, he feels: “One of the reasons I accepted the position with UT is because now I’m also a 50 percent faculty member of the new School of Green Chemistry and Engineering. What I find especially exciting about its mission is the emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration. This will be the first time, for instance, my group and I will work with chemical engineers.

“I’m looking forward to many opportunities like that in the foreseeable future.”
Jazz icon honored by Louis Armstrong Center

By Vicki L. Kroll

Jon Hendricks was 11 years old when he met Louis Armstrong in Toledo.

“I had to come and wake him up, and I came down to the boarding house — you know, Negroes couldn’t stay in downtown hotels at that time; they had to come over to the Negro neighborhood, called the ghetto, and stay in somebody’s house,” the UT Distinguished Professor of Jazz recalled.

“He took me for this walk and told me about his experiences in the streets of New Orleans singing on street corners. And I told him about my job selling newspapers up on the corner. And we exchanged incidents, and he said, ‘You know, you remind me of me.’ And I said, ‘Oh sure, flattery,’” Hendricks said and then laughed. “And he said, ‘Yeah, you do — a lot!’”

It seems fitting that the Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine presented its What a Wonderful World Award to Hendricks and three others last week in New York City.

“Our honorees are emulating the legacy of Louis Armstrong, a great musician and humanitarian,” said Dr. Joanne Loewy, director of the center named after the trumpeter and singer at the Beth Israel Medical Center. “Each one of them is making a difference in the lives of many people, and we are pleased to recognize and celebrate their contributions and achievements.”

“I’m very honored. [The award] means everything to me,” Hendricks said prior to a concert in Toledo to celebrate his 91st birthday. “[Armstrong] was a beautiful man, a great soul. Meeting him was one of the best things that ever happened to me.”

A lot of incredible things have happened to the legend, who struck a lasting note in the music world.

Hendricks, who was born in Newark, Ohio, but grew up in Toledo, is considered the father of vocalese — the art of setting lyrics to established jazz standards. Time magazine dubbed him “the James Joyce of jive,” and music critic Leonard Feather called him “the poet laureate of jazz.”

In 1957, he formed the jazz vocal group Lambert, Hendricks & Ross. The trio refined vocalese, whereby voices are arranged to sing the parts of instruments. Vocalists Bobby McFerrin, Al Jarreau and the Manhattan Transfer cite the group’s work as a major influence.

“Everything for me started right here in Toledo,” the superstar said. “When I was 12 or 13, I stood in front of the juke box at Stanley Cowell’s hamburger joint on Indiana Avenue and learned every song. And when people would come up to play it, I’d say, ‘What are you going to play?’ And they’d say, ‘What’s it to you?’ I said, ‘Give me the nickel, I’ll sing it.’ And they’d say, ‘I’d like to hear that.’ So they’d give the nickel and I’d sing them the song they were going to play.

“As I look back on it, that’s where vocalese came from,” Hendricks said, adding that story and plenty more will be in his autobiography, Mind on Fire, he’s writing.

The honor from the center named for Satchmo is one of many for the jazz singer. He has won Emmy, Peabody and Grammy awards. His name was added to the Jazz Wall of Fame of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. And he earned a National Endowment for the Arts’ Jazz Masters Fellowship and France’s highest civilian commendation: the Legion of Honor in the class of knight or chevalier.

“I’m proud of the fact that I’ve given my life over to the [music] culture that my people left this country. And although some of them didn’t do anything to make [jazz] what it should be, it’s become one of the best-known cultural art forms in the world,” Hendricks said.

“People are swinging all over the world; they’re swinging everywhere but in America. It sounds awful, but it’s true. We have the most popular cultural art form, and we do every other one but ours. Where is it on TV? Where is it on radio? Where is it? Where is it in civilization?”
Sponsor a banned book to celebrate right to read

By Samantha Watson

A ll over the world, even in the United States, books are banned on a regular basis. Recognize the right to read by donating some of these works to The University of Toledo’s Banned Books Week Vigil.

To celebrate reading, everyone is encouraged to become a “Champion of Freedom of Expression” and donate a banned book to be given away at the vigil as a door prize. People may sponsor a book through the UT Barnes & Noble Bookstore.

Books that have been banned include a wide variety of titles and genres. There are classics, including To Kill a Mockingbird, The Grapes of Wrath and The Catcher in the Rye, as well as more modern stories like Harry Potter, The Lovely Bones and Twilight.

Those who donate or purchase a book for the cause will have their name inscribed in the work and included in the list of “Champions of Freedom of Expression.”

The donated books will be given as door prizes, along with other goods, to those who attend the vigil, which will be held in conjunction with events across the country to honor the American Library Association’s Banned Books Week. Prizes will be given away every half hour.

To find out what books have been banned and to sponsor a paperback, contact the UT Barnes & Noble Bookstore for a complete list of titles and prices. Cash donations for purchasing books are welcome.

After selecting a specific book, contact anyone in merchandising at the Barnes & Noble location in the Gateway or via phone at 419.530.2516 or toledo@bkstore.com.

Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to the vigil, which will be held Thursday, Oct. 18.

There also will be an “Evening With Mark Twain,” featuring a Twain impersonator, Friday, Oct. 19. The author had several of his works banned; Huckleberry Finn is one of the most banned books of all time.

For more information, contact Dr. Paulette Kilmer, UT professor of communication, at paulette.kilmer@utoledo.edu.

Fall piano series to kick off this weekend

By Angela Riddel

Ryan Behan will visit the University Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6 and 7, and be the first artist to perform in the fall Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Series.

His program will include works by Beethoven, Debussy, Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff.

The pianist will present a master class at 10 a.m. Saturday and a recital at 3 p.m. Sunday. The free, public events will be held in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Behan, an adjunct faculty member at Ohio State University, has won acclaim from audiences in Europe and the United States as a soloist and collaborative pianist.

He recently presented a solo concert series for the bicentennial celebrations of Liszt, Chopin and Schumann.

Winner of the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition, Behan has served as a collaborative pianist for the Mozarteum International Sommerakademie in Salzburg and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. He regularly performs with members of the Columbus Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic and Indianapolis Symphony.

The Toledo Piano Teachers Association assists with The University of Toledo Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Series. The association provides students for the master class, publicity for the class and concert, and refreshments for the reception in the lobby following the concert.

For more information on the series, contact Dr. Michael Boyd, UT professor of music, at michael.boyd@utoledo.edu or 419.530.2183.

LGBT rights play, ‘8,’ to be performed Oct. 7

By Casey Cheap

The critically acclaimed national play, “8,” will come to campus this week as a part of the President’s Lecture Series on Diversity.

“8” will be performed just once — Sunday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in Doermann Theater.

The play takes its name from California’s Proposition 8, a November 2008 mandate that disallowed same-sex couples the right of legal marriage status in the state.

Oscar Winner Dustin Lance Black is the playwright for “8.” He also wrote the screenplays for “Milk” and “J. Edgar.”

The play follows closely the court case; much of it was written from the trial’s transcripts. It debuted in New York in 2011.

Black is a founding board member of the American Foundation for Equal Rights in addition to being a screenwriter, director, film and TV producer, and a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights activist.

“The performance is free,” said Jennifer Rockwood, director of the First-Year Experience Program, and director of the play. “A lot of people interested in marriage equality in the U.S. know about this case, but some at UT do not, and we want to get the arguments out on both sides.”

Rockwood said many citizens outside of California and the LGBT community are not as familiar with what happened during the ensuing courtroom battle that took place after Proposition 8 was passed.

“8” is an unprecedented account of Perry v. Schwarzenegger, the district court case that was filed after the people of California voted against gay marriage. Today the case is pending appeal and one day could be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

“People should come out to hear both sides of the issue,” Rockwood said. “People love Court TV. Well, this is Court TV drama at its finest. Not only is it an important issue, and people from the local community will love to see student and faculty alike acting it out.”

Following the performance, there will be a panel discussion with Equality Toledo, a local LGBT rights group; Spectrum, a UT-based LGBT rights group; and the UT Women’s and Gender Studies Department.

TAKING THE STAGE: Presenting “8” at the University will be, from left, Dr. Ben Hyoo; vice provost for academic program development; Holly Monsos, associate dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts; John Adams, senior director for early outreach enrollment management; Jennifer Rockwood, director of the First-Year Experience Program; Dr. Carter Wilson, professor of political science; and Kate Abu-Abi, director of the Arts Living and Learning Community.
Three UT students took home gift cards for their picturesque perspectives they submitted for the recent Ottawa River Photography Contest. The event was part of Celebrate Our River Week and was sponsored by the President’s Commission on the River.

“River in Winter” by Deepesh Bista won first place.

“Academic River” by Anne Peer took second place.

“Little Birdie” by Diane Lynn Woodring won third place.
Shauna Prewitt, a Chicago-based attorney and advocate for rape victims who bear children conceived in rape, will speak about her experiences and the limited legal protections afforded to mothers of rape-conceived children.

She will speak Thursday, Oct. 4, at noon in Law Center Room 1013.

Her free, public lecture is titled “The Absence of Laws Restricting the Parental Rights of Men Who Father Through Rape.”

Prewitt is an author, attorney, advocate and public speaker. She conceived a child as a result of rape while a student at the University of Chicago. Having made the difficult decision to raise her child, she was forced to battle her rapist for custody of the child.

After enduring these events, Prewitt committed to changing custody laws around the nation. In August 2006, she enrolled at the Georgetown University Law Center and began to examine the custody rights of men who father through rape. After learning only a small number of states protected survivor-mothers, she sought to answer the question “Why?”

Her efforts culminated in the article “Giving Birth to a Rapist’s Child: A Discussion and Analysis of the Limited Legal Protections Afforded to Women Who Become Mothers Through Rape” published in the Georgetown Law Journal.

Prewitt graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2009 and is a litigation attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates in Chicago.

“Ms. Prewitt’s advocacy reveals a large gap in our legal system’s protection of women who mother through rape,” said Kara Bruce, UT assistant professor of law.

“Her experiences lead us to question how we as a nation think, speak and legislate on the topic of rape. I am glad that The University of Toledo College of Law is working to encourage awareness of this issue among UT students and the local legal community.”

The lecture is sponsored by the Women’s Law Student Association, Public Interest Law Association, Student Bar Association, UT College of Law and the Toledo Women’s Bar Association.
Open enrollment for 2013 begins Oct. 1

By Kim Goodin

Open enrollment for 2013 health benefits will take place throughout this month.

Following a procedure that was successful last year, enrollment will be conducted entirely online. Only required documentation, such as spousal/domestic partner health-care eligibility affidavits, birth certificates and marriage certificates, will be accepted.

“Our employees loved the convenience and quickness of online enrollment,” said Denise Shordt, senior benefits adviser in Human Resources and Talent Development. “I had quite a few people say, ‘It took less than two minutes for me to complete my enrollment!’”

As with last year, users will go to an open enrollment link on the myUT portal located on UT’s internal website. A series of prompts will lead each employee through the process. Employees must have their user names and passwords activated before they can enter the portal.

Shordt encourages employees to review their current benefit information, whether changing selections or not.

“Some plans require updated information for spouses and older children to be submitted each year,” Shordt explained. “One of the plans has a short procedure if an employee wants to contribute to a Health Savings Account or would like to continue to receive the employer contribution to the Health Savings Account.”

Shordt said plans did not change significantly. A few of the differences from last year include:

• Deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums for plans offered through Medical Mutual of Ohio increased slightly due to Internal Revenue Service regulations.
• Maximum contributions allowed for Flexible Spending Accounts decreased due to national health-care reform regulations.
• AFSCME and PSA employees will receive 15 percent discounts on prescriptions written by UTMC physicians or filled at UT pharmacies.

“In addition to the minor 2013 changes, we were notified last week by FrontPath that the emergency room physicians at Mercy St. Anne’s Hospital are no longer contracted with the FrontPath network, effective Sept. 30 of this year,” Shordt said, “Letters have been mailed to OBA/FrontPath members regarding this change. We encourage employees to utilize The University of Toledo Medical Center for emergency room services, rather than Mercy St. Anne’s, to ensure they receive the negotiated network discount.”

Details regarding each health-care plan, as well as support information, is available on the Human Resources and Talent Development website: utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/index.html. Although benefit forums will not be held this year, an explanatory presentation has been recorded and is available on the open enrollment website.

Computers will be available for employee access in in Human Resources and Talent Development’s offices on Health Science Campus (Facilities Support Building) and Main Campus (Transportation Center) Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Employees who require personal assistance with online enrollment are encouraged to email Human Resources and Talent Development at benefits@utoledo.edu.

Open enrollment ends at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31. New benefits selections will be effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Shining stars to be charted for recognition

The student centeredness that lies at the heart of The University of Toledo mission moves from theory into daily reality thanks to dedicated campus community members. The University is rolling out a new way of recognizing such excellence on Main Campus: its Shining Star Award.

First initiated on Health Science Campus, the monthly award is intended to recognize “people who have demonstrated above-and-beyond commitment to student centeredness by making outstanding contributions to the student experience,” said Joan Duca, service excellence officer for the University.

Dr. Kathleen Thompson-Casado, associate professor of Spanish, was named the first Shining Star recipient. Her nominator, Dr. Linda Rouillard, associate professor of French, called Thompson-Casado, “the emblem of excellence on this campus. She’s an excellent teacher and communicator who respects the students.”

Thompson-Casado’s students reciprocate that respect, Rouillard noted, because they know that they will receive “100 percent of [her] attention” when they have a concern.

“I truly appreciate the University doing this. It is awesome,” Thompson-Casado said on a video posted on the University’s YouTube page: http://utole.do/provostcorner1.

Students, faculty and UT community members are encouraged to nominate candidates for the award by emailing their name and reasons for recognition to Tony Urbina, student affairs manager of ICare University, at tony.urbina@utoledo.edu.

Nominations for Shining Star Award recipients — who receive a trophy, gift card and premiere parking (details being finalized) for a month — are reviewed by the Student Experience Steering Body Committee, which makes the final decision.

“We especially want students to nominate their professors or anyone else they think deserves this award — because anyone can be a shining star,” Duca said.

Open enrollment for 2013 benefits continues through Oct. 31.

Take advantage of the online enrollment process!

Email benefits@utoledo.edu for assistance.

Shining stars to be charted for recognition

The student centeredness that lies at the heart of The University of Toledo mission moves from theory into daily reality thanks to dedicated campus community members. The University is rolling out a new way of recognizing such excellence on Main Campus: its Shining Star Award.

First initiated on Health Science Campus, the monthly award is intended to recognize “people who have demonstrated above-and-beyond commitment to student centeredness by making outstanding contributions to the student experience,” said Joan Duca, service excellence officer for the University.

Dr. Kathleen Thompson-Casado, associate professor of Spanish, was named the first Shining Star recipient. Her nominator, Dr. Linda Rouillard, associate professor of French, called Thompson-Casado, “the emblem of excellence on this campus. She’s an excellent teacher and communicator who respects the students.”

Thompson-Casado’s students reciprocate that respect, Rouillard noted, because they know that they will receive “100 percent of [her] attention” when they have a concern.

“I truly appreciate the University doing this. It is awesome,” Thompson-Casado said on a video posted on the University’s YouTube page: http://utole.do/provostcorner1.

Students, faculty and UT community members are encouraged to nominate candidates for the award by emailing their name and reasons for recognition to Tony Urbina, student affairs manager of ICare University, at tony.urbina@utoledo.edu.

Nominations for Shining Star Award recipients — who receive a trophy, gift card and premiere parking (details being finalized) for a month — are reviewed by the Student Experience Steering Body Committee, which makes the final decision.

“We especially want students to nominate their professors or anyone else they think deserves this award — because anyone can be a shining star,” Duca said.
Everything is possible when you meditate

By Deepesh Bista

In the rush of life, you’re always under pressure, whether it’s from your job, studies, family. In the midst of all these stresses, is it possible to be a stress-free soul?

Yes! Peace comes from within self and to teach all this, the Art of Living Club at The University of Toledo in association with the Student Wellness Center conducted a workshop focusing on new medical students in August. Twenty-eight faces — mostly those of first- and second-year medical students, and a few undergrad and graduate students from Main Campus — were part of the event.

YES Plus started in April when 14 people attended the first workshop on Health Science Campus. The event was generously supported by Jason Cho, a UT medical graduate. With the success of that workshop, we planned another course to deliver a great experience to students.

YES stands for yoga, empowerment and service. This workshop provides the tangible tools to free the mind of stress, worry and anxiety while helping people move to sustainable happiness. Believing in the fact that everyone has an enlightened side, full of confidence, clarity and a sense of belonging, all we need to do is make people aware of these attributes that are within them.

This workshop helps you improve focus by teaching ancient breathing and meditation techniques that aid in studying and everyday alertness, making you feel happier and improving your mood and outlook. This provides you more energy and makes you feel awesome, strengthening your body as well as your mind through yoga, breathing and pranayama. YES Plus will stretch your body as well as your mind.

These 28 faces unknown to each other on day one became coolest and close buddies by the end of the workshop. With all the smiles and enthusiasm to win over the world, they were setting an example of great friendship: a cohort ready to change the world, they were setting an example of great friendship: a cohort ready to change themselves and the society.

The workshop was possible because of many, including instructor Andrew Nunberg, the UT Art of Living Club, Vicki Riddick of Community Wellness and Health Programs on Health Science Campus, Hema Bhakta, a second-year medical student and co-president of Art of Living Club, and all the participants.

YES Plus graduates meet every Monday at 6:15 p.m. in Mulford Garden Café on Health Science Campus. Anyone who wants to try meditation and yoga is welcome. Another workshop likely will take place this semester.

Interested people can learn more by contacting Bhakta at hemangini.bhakta@rockets.utoldeo.edu and myself at deepesh.bista@rockets.utoldeo.edu.

Bista is a doctoral student in the Department of Environmental Sciences and is co-president of the UT Art of Living Club.

U.S. National Karate Team

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in the National Black Belt League’s Super Grands.

Pitzen had been in retirement up until Richard Plowden, president of the World Kickboxing Council and coach of the American team, began putting events on Facebook and reignited his interest in competition. He began training four weeks before the regional qualifier.

“Given the fact that I wasn’t training and wasn’t in shape, I was very happy to perform as well as I did,” Pitzen said. “I was also excited to be able to compete with one of the guys who I looked up to — Jeff Gears.”

Gears, who owns Jeff Gears Mixed Martial Arts on Monroe Street in Toledo, is a big part of why Pitzen became involved with tournament competition karate in the first place. His original trainer was partners with Gears and told stories about his successes.

“It’s like getting to play golf with Tiger Woods every day or basketball with Michael Jordan,” Pitzen said. “The first time we sparred, I was in awe that someone who is considered one of the greatest middleweight fighters was standing in front of me and willing to share his wisdom, knowledge and experience.”

Pitzen plans to graduate from UT with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

“UT is a very respected institution, especially in the criminal justice field,” he said. “I really want to finish my degree and maybe move on to a graduate program — possibly even law school.”
Students encouraged to pitch clean energy ideas for competition

By Samantha Watson

This year, students from The University of Toledo will have their first opportunity to participate in the 2013 Ohio Clean Energy Challenge.

This is part of the U.S. Department of Energy National Clean Energy Business Plan Competition and is being administered in Ohio by the University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio and NorTech.

This is the second year of the competition and the first year UT has been involved. Innovation Enterprises at UT (UTIE) is trying to build student interest in this competition and is involved with similar events — the UTIE Business Plan Competition and the Northwest Ohio Business Plan Competition.

Dr. Mike Heben, UT professor of physics and Wright Center of Innovation Endowed Chair in Photovoltaics, and Jessica Sattler, associate director for regional and economic engagement, want to see students show more interest each year and want to provide them with as much help as possible as they learn the process.

“This entrepreneurial culture is in the DNA of Toledo and The University of Toledo,” Heben said. “We want the University to be a driver for the region. We want to bring partners together even if they’re not part of the University.”

Students from any major can submit their ideas for a clean energy technology and work with teams of other students and faculty members, as long as the teams are comprised of at least two people and 50 percent students. Cross-disciplinary teams are encouraged, so that teams have a wide variety of expertise.

“We’re engaging the University’s resources on the academic side and on the innovation side to find these ideas and to support the development of these ideas into business cases and, eventually, companies,” Heben said.

Those with clean energy ideas must submit an intent to apply by Friday, Oct. 5, at uceao.org/challenge. This submission is solely to express interest; official applications are due Monday, Dec. 3.

Student teams will be judged in December, and semifinalists will continue to the Ohio Competition in January. Those who participate in the state competition will be paired with mentors in the Ohio Mentorship Program who will help them develop their ideas and grow as new entrepreneurs.

The top student team from Ohio will be awarded $10,000 and advance to the Midwest regional competition to compete for a $100,000 prize and a seat at the national competition. At the national competition, winners from the six regions will compete against one another for the grand prize of $100,000.

“As part of the package for the winning team, they get money and mentorship as well as recognition and exposure to venture capitalists and business leaders involved in the competition,” Sattler said.

For more information, contact Sattler at jessica.sattler@utoledo.edu.
FAN-TASTIC! UT broke its record for football season ticket sales with a total of 11,917. This year’s sales eclipsed 11,792 set last year. Season ticket sales again were bolstered by the Ultimate Fan Plan packages; all of those season plans were sold this year. “We want to thank Rocket fans for giving us the best season-ticket base in the Mid-American Conference,” Associate Athletic Director Dave Nottke said. “We are fortunate to have such great fan support for our football program.”

Homecoming

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FRIDAY, OCT. 5
• Golden Anniversary Class of 1962 Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Libbey Hall. Following lunch, the group will take a bus tour of Main and Health Science campuses.
• Homecoming Alumni Gala and Awards Ceremony, 6 p.m., Student Union Auditorium. The Alumni Association will present this year’s Blue T, Gold T and Edward H. Schmidt Young Alum awards, and college and affiliate award winners will be honored. Tickets are $30 per person. Members of the Student Alumni Association may use their free event benefit to attend. For more information or to make a reservation, call the Alumni Office at 419.530.ALUM (2586).
• Cheerleader and Mascot Meet and Greet, 9:30 p.m., Trotters Tavern, 5131 Heatherdowns Blvd.

SATURDAY, OCT. 6
• Cheerleader and Mascot Reunion Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Savage Arena Joe Grogan Room.
• Edward C. Schmidt Homecoming Parade, 11 a.m. Sponsored by Blue Key, the parade will begin at West Bancroft Street and go to Middlesex Drive to Hughes Drive to Cheltenham Road and back on West Bancroft Street.
• Alumni Association Hot Dog Tent, noon, William and Carol Koester Alumni Pavilion. Come to the tailgate for free hot dogs, chips and pop; beer and wine will be available for purchase with proper ID. And there’ll be live music by Five O’Clock Rush.
• College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Alumni Affiliate Homecoming Luncheon, noon, Student Union Room 2592.
• Toledo vs. Central Michigan Homecoming Game, 3 p.m., Glass Bowl. See you at the game! Cheer on the Rockets and see the crowning of the Homecoming king and queen. Tickets are $24 for reserved seating; $12 for children 12 and younger; half off for UT faculty and staff; and free for UT students with IDs. For tickets, call 419.530.GOLD (4653).

SUNDAY, OCT. 7
• Golden Alumni Society Induction of the Class of 1962, 11:30 a.m., Inverness Club, 4601 Dorr St.

For more information, go to utoledo.edu/homecoming/events.html or call the UT Alumni Relations Office at 419.530.2586 or the UT Office of Student Involvement at 419.530.4944.