Help Rocky be part of Capital One Mascot Challenge

By Samantha Watson

The University of Toledo’s Rocky Rocket has the chance to be a part of the Capital One Mascot Challenge — but he needs your help.

Rocky is in first place on the list of write-ins for next year’s Capital One Mascot Challenge — a yearly competition between the mascots of eligible NCAA schools. This marks the 10th anniversary of the challenge.

Each year, voters decide the top 16 college mascots in the country that make up the All-American Mascot Team. Each mascot that is a part of the top 16 is pitted against the others each week; at the end of 12 weeks, the mascot with the most weekly wins becomes Capital One National Mascot of the Year.

To vote for Rocky to make it into the top 16, go to utole.do/helprocky and select Ohio and The University of Toledo. You must vote before noon Monday, Dec. 17, and each person can vote multiple times as well as share their vote with others via Facebook and Twitter.

Be sure to vote for Rocky a few times and encourage your friends to do the same.

VOTE! Go to utole.do/helprocky and select Ohio and The University of Toledo to vote for Rocky so he can participate in the Capital One Mascot Challenge. Multiple votes are allowed; deadline is Monday, Dec. 17, at noon.
UT ranks in ‘best-bang-for-the-buck colleges’

By Casey Cheep

Washington Monthly recently designed its own college ranking system that has placed UT in the top half of universities when compared to schools nationwide.

The September/October issue has UT ranked 132 out of 281 in the national universities category, according to the new system, which rates colleges on how effectively they serve students rather than on institutional prestige and how their ACT and SAT scores stand up to those of other schools.

The goal in Washington Monthly’s “best-bang-for-the-buck colleges” is cost-effectiveness. The article makes the point that college is only a good investment if students are not paying too much for it.

In addition to the top national universities, the best 100 liberal arts, masters and baccalaureate schools are ranked.

UT is ahead of schools such as Northwestern University (143) and Boston College (146).

The criteria for ranking the top universities were a number of different subcategories, including social mobility, research and service. According to Washington Monthly, no one category was considered more important than any other, which led to UT’s overall score of 46.6.

“It is impressive that a former municipal university has grown to be recognized in national college rankings,” said Carty Finkbeiner, former three-term mayor of Toledo. “UT is ahead of huge state universities such as the University of Oregon and the University of Tennessee, which are mainstays in their respective states. Those universities have been around for a long time and have massive budgets to promote themselves. Toledo is a relative newcomer and should be proud to be ranked 132 of 281 on the list.”

View the complete list of national rankings at opinionarchives.com/files/04409.pdf.

‘New Laws Impacting Water Quality and Quantity’ topic of Great Lakes Water Conference

By Rachel Phipps

New international, national and state laws impacting Great Lakes water quality and quantity will be the subjects of the 12th annual Great Lakes Water Conference Friday, Nov. 2, at The University of Toledo College of Law.

The free, public conference titled “New Laws Impacting Water Quality and Quantity” will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the recently renovated McQuade Law Center Auditorium.

Three panels of experts will discuss the newly amended Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, mercury pollution and water use legislation spawned by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. Tom Henry, award-winning environmental writer for The Blade, will be the keynote speaker.

“The problems facing the Great Lakes are often interdisciplinary in nature,” said Kenneth Kilbert, UT associate dean for academic affairs and director of the College of Law’s Legal Institute of the Great Lakes.

“This conference brings together experts from law, science and policy in an effort to solve such important problems.”

The conference is free to the public, and attorneys can earn 4.5 hours of Ohio Continuing Legal Education for $60. The conference is sponsored by the College of Law and its affiliated Legal Institute of the Great Lakes.

More information about the conference is available at law.utoledo.edu/ligl/conferences.htm. Register for Continuing Legal Education and/or a box lunch at give2ut.utoledo.edu/waterconfreg.asp.

Correction

One of Dr. Jim Ferris’ titles was incorrect in a story about an essay contest that appeared in last week’s paper. He is a professor of communication, in addition to holding the Ability Center of Greater Toledo Endowed Chair of Disability Studies and being director of the UT Disability Studies Program.
In memoriam

Dr. Richard D. Ruppert, who played a pivotal role in shaping the Medical College of Ohio during his presidency, died Oct. 22 in New Orleans. He was 81.

In 1977, Ruppert became MCO’s third president. During his 16-year tenure, he continued the college’s expansion with more clinical services and patient care, increased biomedical research activities, and additional academic offerings.

Under his leadership, the School of Nursing, the School of Allied Health and the Graduate School were established. And the campus master plan approved by the first MCO Board of Trustees was finished, with construction completed on the $150 million, 270-bed MCO Hospital, the Ida Marie Dowling Hall, the Lenore W. and Marvis S. Kobacker Center, the Eleanor N. Dana Conference Center, the Toledo Hilton, and the Dorothy and Ashel Bryan Academic Commons. Also finished were the Coghlin Pavilion, the Henry L. Morse Sports Center, and an ambulatory care center that was named the Richard D. Ruppert Health Center upon his retirement in 1993.

“Much of MCO’s success can be credited to Richard D. Ruppert,” wrote Dr. Gerald Marsa in a 1993 Toledo Medicine editorial for the Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County. “From a new college on a divided campus — one part farmland and the other a deteriorating county hospital complex — he provided guidance and the political skills to develop the new campus to its present 10 structures.

“Only six graduating classes preceded Dr. Ruppert’s arrival, whereas today more than 2,000 MCO graduates are practicing physicians throughout the U.S. The school has emerged from its early growing pains to achieve an identity as a quality medical institution during Dr. Ruppert’s tenure, with a large credit due to his leadership and vision.”

Born in Middletown, Ohio, Ruppert worked on the family farm in Franklin, Ohio, five years after graduating from high school before going to Ohio State University, where he received a bachelor of science degree in 1957 and a doctor of medicine in 1961. It was at OSU that he met medical classmate Elizabeth (Libby) Spencer; the two married in 1959.

He completed an internal medicine internship at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago and in 1962 returned to Ohio State, where he was a resident in gastroenterology until 1965 and served as chief resident for one year. For nine years, Ruppert was professor of gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine. In 1970, he was named assistant dean of the College of Medicine and added the title of medical director for patient services in 1972. Ruppert was named OSU Man of the Year in 1970.

In 1974, he became vice chancellor for health affairs at the Ohio Board of Regents. He served in that post until he was named MCO president.

The Toledo and Port Clinton resident also was known for his service to the community. Ruppert was a former member of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Board from 1989 to 1999 and served as its chair four years; president of the Rotary Club in 2005-06; campaign chair for the United Way of Greater Toledo in 1991-92; member and president of the Ohio Historical Society Board from 2001 to 2011; and member of the Hayes Presidential Center Board from 1996 to 2011.

Since 2002, he was trustee, campaign chair and president of the Fort Meigs Historical Society, and he served as president of the Torch Club in 2012.

His numerous honors include receiving the Jefferson Award for community service in 2009 and being named a Master Fellow by the American College of Physicians in 2007.

The family suggests memorials to the Richard and Elizabeth Ruppert Presidential Scholarship Fund through the UT Foundation.

Remember to complete online open enrollment for health-care benefits, which continues through Wednesday, Oct. 31.

You must complete open enrollment even if you make no changes to last year’s selections. Email benefits@utoledo.edu if you have questions.

Princeton Review

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16 are international — based on our high regard for their academic programs and our reviews of institutional data we collect from the schools. We also solicit and greatly respect the opinions of students attending these schools who rate and report on their experiences at them on our 80-question survey for the book.

The Princeton Review stated its survey showed the College of Business and Innovation provides a “solid preparation in general management and doing business in a global economy.”

“UT and the College of Business and Innovation are very excited at this continuing recognition by The Princeton Review of the quality and relevance of our MBA programs,” said Dr. Thomas Sharkey, interim dean of the college. “This validates the quality of our faculty, the significance of our curriculum, and the excellence of our students.”

Dr. Anand Kunnathur, senior executive associate dean of the college, said, “Our inclusion in this select group is a seal of quality for our degree programs. It elevates the value of degrees received, leads to increased enrollment of high-quality students, and enhances the qualifications of alumni. Furthermore, it benefits businesses nationwide by providing them with highly qualified graduates who become superb employees.”

In the profile, The Princeton Review editors describe the school as “offering a good education at a very competitive price with convenient scheduling. The College of Business and Innovation at The University of Toledo fits the needs of area businesspeople in search of a quality MBA.”

“UT distinguishes its MBA program with a number of cutting-edge concentrations,” the listing states. “Students here may specialize in customer relationship management and marketing intelligence, human resource management, information systems, operations and supply chain management, and professional sales, as well as in the more traditional areas of administration, finance, international business and marketing.”

One student in the listing commented, “Receiving individual attention is a norm, be it in the advising office or from a professor.”

Another student said, “The program is very accommodating toward people who work full time. The majority of classes are taught at night, so I have been able to continue to work full time while taking one or two classes at night.”

The Princeton Review’s survey asked 19,000 students at the 296 schools their opinions of their institution’s academics, student body and campus life, as well as about themselves and their career plans. An education services company, The Princeton Review does not rank the schools in the book on a single hierarchical list from 1 to 296, or name one business school best overall.
Interdisciplinary team swims together to track fish killer

By Cynthia Nowak

Call it the Ebola of the gill-bearing world: the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus (VHSv) causes deadly bleeding in more than 80 marine and freshwater fish species across the Northern Hemisphere. Though VHSv poses no known danger to humans, it’s been implicated in fish die-offs from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean and — worryingly for the regional economies dependent on a healthy ecosystem — the Great Lakes.

At The University of Toledo, a unique multidisciplinary study is researching VHSv from multiple angles, seeking to unravel the infectious virus’ lethal cargo.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation and an Ohio Sea Grant through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the project was initiated and continues to be coordinated by Dr. Carol Stepien, professor of ecology and director of the University’s Lake Erie Center.

In fact, it literally washed up on the shore, Stepien said: “In the water directly across from the center, we observed many fish that had died of hemorrhages. It turned out to be part of the first outbreak of VHSv in [Lake Erie] waters.”

Stepien from the beginning had a particular interest in the capability of some viruses, including VHSv, to evolve very quickly.

Serendipitously, it was around this time that she met Dr. Jim Willey, UT professor of medicine and pathology, and George Isaac Professor for Cancer Research. His lab’s expertise in developing molecular diagnostic tests would be central to the project.

Early on, Stepien and Willey identified the importance of developing a rapid genetic test that could be used on the virus, since traditional cell culturing can take more than a month.

“Our lab’s usual focus is on lung cancer in humans, but we were able to use a similar approach to develop a good test for VHSv,” Willey said. “A key property of our test is that it includes quality control, which reduces the number of false negatives and false positives, and allows the results to be more easily reproduced from one lab to another.”

To maintain precise standardizations for the test, well-defined samples of fish cells are necessary. Enter Dr. Douglas Leaman, professor and chair of the UT Department of Biological Sciences, whose group was able to culture fish cells and grow VHSv in the laboratory.

As an immunologist, Leaman was surprised by how little research existed regarding how the fish hosts’ bodies respond to the virus: “VHSv is closely related to a mammalian virus I already work on, and we knew that fish and mammals shared components of their innate immune systems that play a major role in fighting the virus.”

His work on livestock interferons, a family of antiviral proteins activated upon infection in mammals, made him wonder if interferon activation by VHSv was similar in fish. If so, would the virus fight back and overcome the defenses?

By dissecting the virus, Leaman’s group identified at least two viral proteins that appear to block the actions of the fish innate immune response. They then focused on the mechanisms used by the viral proteins to disable interferon responses and allow viral dissemination. Ultimately, the researchers hope to discover whether all strains of VHSv defend themselves this way or if some strains are better at it.

Leaman asked, “When the virus moves into a new ecosystem like the Great Lakes, is that event associated with an increase in the virus’ ability to overcome the host’s defenses?”

The next step is a series of studies on fish deliberately infected with known strains of VHSv. That research will take place at a contained U.S. Geological Survey facility in West Virginia. Where will the virus move next in the waters of the Great Lakes? Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek, associate professor of ecology in the UT Department of Environmental Sciences, is working to crack the patterns by which VHSv “migrates.”

“The virus was first detected in Lake St. Clair, then Lake Erie, then several years later near Duluth, Minnesota,” he noted. “One of the obvious explanations is shipping, the movement of ballast water. One of my graduate students, Jenn Sieracki, is developing a model that we hope will quantify the pattern of the virus’ movement in relation to shipping routes.”

Given its implications for global fish stocks, the project is generating new applications. Bossenbroek’s group is using VHSv as its first model to predict the movement of any aquatic invasive species.

The rapid genetic test developed by Willey’s lab is being converted to a platform that can be used by analysis labs nationwide. A paper Stepien co-authored with graduate student Lindsey Pierce used DNA analysis to track emerging variants of the virus; in September, they presented it at a conference in Marseille, France.

Scientific collaborators include the University of Michigan, Notre Dame University, Cornell University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the U.S. Geological Survey in Seattle.

VHSv is here to stay, Stepien noted, though its presence may be morphing almost daily: “Today, many fish in Lake Erie will test positive for the virus but not display symptoms. So it’s become endemic, as though the fish have developed antibodies or the virus is not as virulent as before.

“It’s an evolutionary arms race between the virus and the fish: Who adapts to changes in the other?”

HOOKED: UT researchers are investigating the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus that causes deadly bleeding in more than 80 marine and freshwater fish species. They are, from left, Dr. Jim Willey, Dr. Carol Stepien, Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek and Dr. Douglas Leaman.
Art students’ work appearing on local digital billboards

By Angela Riddle

Through a collaborative partnership with Lamar Outdoor Advertising, the work of UT art students is appearing on several local digital billboards through mid-December.

Art students from the Time, Motion, Space class, joined by others representing the UT Bachelor of Fine Arts Program, have created fictional film stills to represent “Stories From Toledo.”

These images will be shown in varying locations around the city on 20 digital billboards over two months. A few noteworthy locations displaying student work will be I-75 at Berdan Avenue, I-475 at Upton Avenue, and Monroe Street and Sylvania Avenue.

Student images will be interspersed among the regularly scheduled advertising throughout the period, thanks to billboard time donated by Lamar. The images will be moved to different billboard locations throughout that time in order to have the work shown in numerous places in Toledo.

And the election will take precedent until Wednesday, Nov. 7.

Barry Whittaker, UT assistant professor of art and coordinator of new media design practices, directed the project. He said this project provided students the chance to see their images directly connected to the city.

“For their work to be considered for display, the students had to consider ways to suggest movement or story beyond the frame in order to suggest a larger narrative,” he said.

This project allowed students to experience art production for large-format media and the technical considerations and limitations of outdoor, public display. The images had to be easily readable at a distance or from a passing car. The students had to create each image for multiple billboard sizes, so they could be shown on any of Lamar’s digital billboard locations. Each image was constructed to work within two different aspect ratios.

The untitled works are by student artists: Clinton Bales, Alyssa Brown, Kasia Gacek, Yang Gao, Morgan Hayward, Philip Herman, Jason Hinkle, Thomas Johnson, Marko Milliken, Halah Mohamed, Jessica Ostrander, Jeremy Pellington, Noah Roszczypka, Austin Tuttle, April VanSlambrouck, Jon Wittes and Mark Yappueying.

For a gallery of the images and a map to the billboard locations, visit http://utoledo.edu/billboard.

For more information on the project, contact Whittaker at william.whittaker@utoledo.edu or 419.530.8320.

Halloween Spooktacular to offer musical treat Oct. 30

Catch the “Ghost Train” to spend the “Night on Bald Mountain” and visit the “Cave of the Winds” at this year’s Halloween Spooktacular.

The UT bands, orchestra, opera and choir will celebrate the season Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. in Doermann Theater.

Selections from “Wicked” as well as classical favorites, including “Orpheus” and “Jabberwocky,” will be performed.

The concert will feature theatrics; expect to see zombies, hunchbacks and more.

Audience members are invited to come in costume.

For more information on the free, public event, contact the UT Department of Music at 419.530.2448.

OCT. 29, 2012
Historian to discuss Indian-Pakistani conflict

By Casey Cheap

Students and faculty soon will get an outside-the-box narrative about the Indian-Pakistani conflict from a respected scholar of both countries’ history.

Dr. Ayesha Jalal, the Mary Richardson Professor of History at Tufts University, will give a talk titled “The Pity of Partition: The Personal and Political Across the India-Pakistan Divide” Friday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. in Libby Hall.

The free, public event will last about two hours and be followed by a question-and-answer session.

“The personal life, family history and short stories of renowned Urdu litterateur Saadat Hasan Manto will serve as a prism to explore the human dimension of the partition of India and the post-colonial moment in Pakistan,” Jalal said. “By probing the creative tension between fictional and historical narratives, the lecture will analyze the post-colonial transition, the advent of the Cold War in South Asia, and the impact on Pakistan and its relations with India.”

Jalal is the author of seven major publications and is working on four others, including Battle for Pakistan. She has been a professor at Tufts University since 1999 and holds a joint appointment in the History Department and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

“She is going to discuss the history of Pakistan and whether creating the nation of Pakistan was actually the goal of the founder of Pakistan,” said Dr. Renee Heberle, UT associate professor of political science. “The implications of this historical argument will be discussed at length. She will put on display how she uses the best of both history and political science to get at these difficult questions. We welcome everyone to this important discussion.”

Jalal’s talk is the inaugural lecture for interdisciplinary studies. In addition to the event Friday, there will be a faculty seminar Thursday, Nov. 1, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in University Hall Room 4180.

Conference to discuss sustainability in today’s university

By Samantha Watson

With the cost of higher education rising each year, universities are looking to become more self-sustainable in order to save money.

On Thursday, Nov. 1, The University of Toledo will host Sustainable U, a conference in which this sustainability initiative will be discussed. The conference will take place from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m. in Student Union Rooms 2591 and 2592.

This is the first year the conference has been held at UT; for the past three years, it has been held at Bowling Green State University. For this year’s meeting, UT will be joined by BGSU and the community to talk about the present and future for sustainability at U.S. universities and beyond.

“The purpose of the conference is to bring together the researchers, practitioners and educators who are working in the sustainability area in northwest Ohio so that they can discuss what they are doing and what universities are doing in order to create a sustainable environment,” said Dr. Ashok Kumar, professor and chair of the UT Department of Civil Engineering and conference chair.

The event will kick off with a welcome from Dr. James P. Trempe, UT vice president for research and professor of biochemistry and cancer biology, followed by opening speaker Dr. Andy Jorgensen, UT associate professor and director of general chemistry.

Following the opening remarks, there will be posters, exhibits and speakers from UT, BGSU and the community. Presentations will be given on university initiatives, sustainable pedagogy, sustainability research and student contributions. There will be breaks for coffee and lunch.

“We want to invite anyone from the University who is interested in learning about sustainability,” Kumar said. “We will have practical tips as well as research tips during the conference, and attendees will be able to see how the new generation of students is learning about sustainability.”

Those who wish to attend the conference must register at utoledo.edu/dl/sustainableu/index.html. More information also can be found on that site.
Newly accredited UT program has most representatives at athletic training conference

By Samantha Watson

At this year’s National Athletic Training Association Conference, The University of Toledo had the largest number of research presentations of any institution for the second year in a row, making up almost 8 percent of the content reported.

This also was the first conference in which UT’s Graduate Athletic Training Education Program was recognized by the association as accredited. The UT program was accredited in March, making it the 16th program of its kind in the nation.

“The accreditation was a long time coming and a great accomplishment for the University,” said Dr. Phillip Gribble, UT associate professor in kinesiology.

Coming from an accredited athletic training graduate program, Gribble wanted to see Toledo take a similar route when he came to the University 10 years ago. UT already had an accredited undergraduate program in athletic training, and faculty members wanted to see the program grow.

“We started in 2004 with four students,” Gribble said. “We currently have 20 students in the program. We’ve exponentially increased the number of students we have in the program. It’s been a lot of fun to see that over almost a decade we’ve built the program to what it is now.”

The accreditation of the program was through the National Athletic Training Association, the professional organization of athletic training. The association took an investigative look at the program’s curriculum, research and involvement of the students in clinical settings in order to determine whether it was fit for accreditation. Representatives then came to UT for a November site visit last year to study the facilities, students and faculty.

“Overall, they were extremely impressed with what The University of Toledo has been able to produce,” Gribble said. “They had no major concerns at all about our program. For being a first-time application to the accreditation process, I’m really proud of that.”

Gribble was joined at the National Athletic Training Association conference this summer in St. Louis by Dr. Brian Pietrosimone, UT assistant professor in kinesiology, and 19 students from the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program.

“This solidified us as one of the strongest programs in the country in athletic training and sports medicine research,” Pietrosimone said. “Our success is largely due to the fact that we have some of the best students.”

Don’t procrastinate — inoculate!

Flu shots, which are free for UT employees and students with IDs, will be given:

- **TUESDAY, OCT. 30** — UT Medical Center Gift Shop Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31** — Health Education Building Lobby from 8 a.m. to noon.
- **THURSDAY, NOV. 1** — UT Medical Center Gift Shop Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **TUESDAY, NOV. 6** — Stranahan Hall Lobby from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7** — Law Center Room 1039 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **THURSDAY, NOV. 8** — Rocket Hall Lobby from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **TUESDAY, NOV. 13** — Health and Human Services Building Lobby from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **THURSDAY, NOV. 15** — Memorial Field House Center Court from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FLEXING UT RESEARCH MUSCLE: Brittany Luc, UT athletic training graduate student, presented her research on the “Effectiveness of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction in Preventing Knee Osteoarthritis” at the National Athletic Training Association Conference in St. Louis this summer.

The faculty and students gave 26 presentations on lower extremity injuries, such as those in the knee and ankle. Topics discussed by other institutions were concussions, sudden death and shoulder injuries.

Gribble said that although concussions are more serious and deadly, research on lower extremity injuries is just as important because they are much more common and can have negative, long-lasting effects. Research on these types of injuries is a main focus at UT and is pertinent to athlete health at the adolescent, collegiate and professional levels.

Another great accomplishment was Gribble’s induction into this year’s class of fellows. He has been attending the conference since 1996, when he began presenting as a student. Pietrosimone has been attending and presenting research for seven years.
You are invited to attend

4TH ANNUAL
S. Amjad Hussain
VISITING LECTURE IN THE HISTORY
OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences

Wednesday, October 31, 2012 & 5 p.m.
Featuring
A Confluence of Science,
Journalism and Civic Leadership
The Rich Legacy of Paul Block, Jr., Ph.D.

Presented by Maurice Manning, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Distinguished University Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Cancer Biology,
The University of Toledo

The University of Toledo has created the Annual Lectureship in the history of medicine and surgery to honor Dr. S. Amjad Hussain’s deep interest in many diverse fields including the history of medicine.

Dr. Hussain is an emeritus professor of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery in the Department of Surgery at The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

Health Education Building Room 110
Health Science Campus
RSVP to k.edwards@utoledo.edu or 419.383.5416