Research is joint affair at musculoskeletal labs

By Cynthia Nowak

Oh, your aching back? Your throbbing knee? You’re not suffering alone. Musculoskeletal disorders affect more than one in four Americans, with annual direct and indirect costs for bone and joint health totaling $849 billion; that’s 7.7 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

The statistics energize Dr. Brian G. Pietrosimone, assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology and director of the Joint Injury and Muscle Activation Laboratory.

Conditions that include osteoarthritis, muscle strains and lower back pain affect more people than do cancer, respiratory distress, cardiovascular disease or obesity, he said. “But that’s not well-publicized, maybe because everyone has aches and pains, and no one dies from them.”

Or do they? He noted, “Such disorders are often a gateway to these other conditions. If you have an injury to your knee or ankle, you don’t walk or move well. That can cause changes in your lifestyle and help create obesity, which can lead to cardiovascular or respiratory disease.”

Understanding the origins of musculoskeletal disorders has been a priority for Pietrosimone since he joined UT four years ago. Last year, he teamed with department colleagues Drs. Phillip Gribble, Abbey Thomas and Charles Armstrong to combine three longstanding research sites to create the Musculoskeletal Health and Movement Science Laboratory.

It’s a space for many and varied avenues of research with a common goal: to improve movement for people of all ages suffering from lower-extremity joint injuries.

Because two areas in the body — the brain and the spinal cord — generate movement, they are the focus of the cutting-edge research technology utilized in the labs. A study of the brain’s pathways following injury to the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the knee, for instance, showed something surprising happening when the knee could no longer move correctly.

“Everyone expects the loss of muscle strength following an ACL injury,”

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Research

continued from p. 1

Pietrosimone said. “In fact, the pathways that generate the messages from the brain and spinal cord are changed.

“Right now, the current paradigm for joint injury rehabilitation is that you strengthen the supporting muscles. But we need to back up our interventions and target them to the brain and spinal cord.”

As well, he added, UT researchers are finding that muscle weakness may originate in the brain for some patients, in the spinal cord for others: “It’s very preliminary, but we’re thinking this will develop into an individualized approach to health care.”

How a person moves is studied as well, thanks to technologies that can track and animate trajectories of movement as individuals walk, and how much force they put out with every step taken — force that the body normally distributes via the muscles. However, with many joint conditions, including osteoarthritis, energy is absorbed directly by structures of the joint, hastening its degeneration.

“We use computers to show people in real-time what their bodies look like in motion and we can teach them how to move correctly via making real-time adjustments,” Pietrosimone explained. “They’re essentially training the cortical pathways connecting their brain and muscles.”

A collaboration with Dr. Michael Tevald in the college’s Physical Therapy Program uses transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation to improve the function of thigh muscles — the heavy lifters — in arthritis patients. The tingling electrical stimulus reactivates the neural messages in muscles weakened by the disease, Pietrosimone said, “and gives [patients] more bang for the buck in rehab.”

Future plans include an increased presence in UT’s orthopedics program, the creation of larger patient databases to better predict outcomes, and further work with arthritis biomarkers to improve understanding of the disease that’s the end stage of any physical injury.

Crediting fellow faculty for the surge in research, he also singles out students, including eight doctoral students he rates as the best in the entire country. Some 20 master’s candidates work on thesis projects, an integral part of the department’s research, and undergraduate students play research roles as well.

“Tell them all that their work is part of a research push that we hope changes clinical practice someday,” he said.

“Try to here to be very problem-oriented. We have a lot of what you might call neat technological toys here, but we’re not testing just to test things. We want to improve life for actual people. To do that, we’ve often had to develop new skills, or collaborate with others who have those skills, evolving as we learn. Three years ago I would never have predicted I’d be involved in biomarkers.”

Unconsciously invoking metaphors of motion, he added, “You chase the problem and see where it takes you. Research is not linear; it has to react and pivot easily.”

Jefferson Award annual honoree named

David Gosser, a student in the College of Nursing, right, was named UT’s fifth annual Jefferson Award honoree during a Feb. 13 luncheon. He posed for a photo with the award with Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs, left, and the Rev. James Bacik, who nominated Gosser for the honor.

Gosser has contributed to many organizations and events, including Tent City, Walk for Water, Pizza for the Poor, Wrap Up Toledo, the Ronald McDonald House, the Children’s Miracle Network and Relay for Life. As UT’s annual honoree, Gosser will be invited to the Jefferson Awards national organization’s yearly conference in June. Toledo Mayor Mike Bell was the guest speaker at last week’s event, which was a tribute to UT’s 2012 Jefferson Awards honorees: Sherry Andrews, Katelyn Ball, Rosaline Cordova, Nicholas Hemwall, Erin Nichols, Matthew Perry, Susan Rice, Vipul Shukla and Kelly Staufer.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER: The UT chapter of the Blue Key National Honor Society was recognized last month when it hosted the organization’s national conference. UT received the outstanding chapter award for balanced and all-around excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. More than 100 students from 17 Blue Key school chapters attended the two-day event.
University slates events for National Engineers Week

The University of Toledo College of Engineering, the UT Engineering Council and several student groups have planned events to celebrate National Engineers Week, Feb. 18-22.

“As a nation, we are re-engineering our way to prosperity with a renewed emphasis on entrepreneurship and innovation,” Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering, said. “The profession of engineering is committed to this value in its core.

“The National Engineers Week is a time for all of us to reaffirm our commitment to improve the human condition. UT engineering students have organized several exciting events as part of a weeklong celebration. We invite everyone in our community, both on and off campus, to join us.”

Listed by date, events will include:

**Monday, Feb. 18**
- National Engineers Week Kickoff, noon, first floor of Nitschke Hall. Stop by for a free slice of pizza and a pair of sunglasses!
- Quiz Bowl, noon to 2 p.m., Nitschke Hall Room 1027. Students will test their engineering knowledge.
- Minute to Win It, 2 to 4 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Students will race to complete a series of tasks in the least amount of time.

**Tuesday, Feb. 19**
- Chem-E Car Demonstration, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall.
- Students vs. Faculty Tug of War, noon to 1 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Student teams will vie for the chance to compete against engineering faculty members.
- Fastest Lap, 1 to 2 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Drivers, start your engines! Well, rev up the Xbox and take the steering wheel to race one lap for the fastest time.
- Static Cling Challenge, 2 to 2:30 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Students will use static electricity to see how many balloons will stick to them.
- Homemade Ice Cream in a Bag, 3 to 4:30 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Who knew an endothermic reaction could make such a tasty treat? Stop by to make some frozen goodness in less than 15 minutes.

**Wednesday, Feb. 20**
- Engineer for a Day, starts at 9 a.m., Nitschke Hall. Area high school students will visit the University to tour engineering facilities. After a luncheon on campus, the students will shadow professional engineers in the community.
- Life-Size Jenga Competition, 3 to 4:30 p.m., lower level of Palmer Hall. Students will attempt to dismantle a tower of blocks without having it fall down.

**Thursday, Feb. 21**
- Guest Speakers Bill Spracher and Casey Pieretti of Amp’dGear, noon, Nitschke Hall Auditorium. An amputee since 1985, Pieretti, an actor, stuntman, tri-athlete and professional inline skater, approached Spracher, co-host of Discovery Channel’s “Bionic Builders” and president and owner of Spracher Engineering Inc., to create a pair of custom scuba fins in 2000. They founded Amp’dGear, a company that makes low-cost recreational devices for amputees. Working with numerous sports gear companies, the two are designing and manufacturing limbs and accessories for a variety of activities, including rock climbing and mountain biking. Pizza will be served outside the auditorium at 11:30 a.m.
- Engineering Putt-Putt, 2 to 4 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Student organizations will tee it up and design challenging miniature golf holes.
- Pop Bottle Rockets Contest, 2 to 4 p.m., Nitschke Hall Courtyard. Students will create a pair of custom scuba fins working with numerous sports gear companies, the two are designing and manufacturing limbs and accessories for a variety of activities, including rock climbing and mountain biking. Pizza will be served outside the auditorium at 11:30 a.m.
- Engineering Putt-Putt, 2 to 4 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Student organizations will tee it up and design challenging miniature golf holes.
- Pop Bottle Rockets Contest, 2 to 4 p.m., Nitschke Hall Courtyard. Students will create a pair of custom scuba fins.

**Friday, Feb. 22**
- Pingpong Ball Launch, noon to 2 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Students will receive a set of materials and design a device to launch a pingpong ball as far as possible.
- Toothpick Bridge, 2 to 4 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Students will build bridges using toothpicks and glue, then they will test the bridges by adding weight until the structure fails.
- Rube Goldberg Competition, 5 to 6 p.m., first floor of Nitschke Hall. Student teams will construct the most creative and complex contraptions to hammer a nail.

For more information, contact Jon Pawlecki, director of student services in the College of Engineering, at jon.pawlecki@utoledo.edu or 419.530.8045.

Asme. was awarded the best paper of the year by Philippines. International Conference in Manila, and Control, Environment, and Management Information Technology, Communication the 2011 Humanoid, Nanotechnology, contributions to wind energy, Afjeh was continued from p. 1

“Are truly fortunate to have Dr. Afjeh as a member of our college family,” said Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering. “He works tirelessly each and every day and truly leads by example. He has served our Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Department, our college and our university for nearly three decades in an outstanding manner as a teacher, researcher and administrator. This is a well-deserved honor.”

Afjeh was nominated for the honor by Dr. Ali Fatemi, professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering and director of the Fatigue and Fracture research Laboratory. Fatemi also is an ASME Fellow.

“(Dr. Afjeh’s) remarkable success in funded research has been a significant contributor to the Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Department of Discovery Channel’s “Bionic Builders” and president and owner of Spracher Engineering Inc., to create a pair of custom scuba fins in 2000. They founded Amp’dGear, a company that makes low-cost recreational devices for amputees. Working with numerous sports gear companies, the two are designing and manufacturing limbs and accessories for a variety of activities, including rock climbing and mountain biking. Pizza will be served outside the auditorium at 11:30 a.m.

During his tenure at UT, Afjeh has received more than $15 million from both government and industry to support his research. Sponsors of his work include NASA, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Army Research Office, the Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health, Teledyne Technologies Inc., Lockheed Martin and Bell Helicopter.
It was 0’dark 30 — military jargon for the early morning time before sunrise — and each cadet was equipped with a rucksack weighing at least 33 pounds. Dressed in their Army combat uniforms, some wearing several layers of cold weather gear, The University of Toledo Army ROTC cadets marched in a column of two.

Two miles out and two miles back along the bike trail that runs through campus, the formation came to a halt in front of the ROTC building with 51 minutes on the stopwatch.

Unlike their normal morning physical training sessions, this small corps of cadets was testing its endurance for an upcoming opportunity to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

Officially known as “Das Abzeichen fur Leistungen im Truppendienst,” the award was established in 1980 by the Bundeswehr — the German Armed Forces — to recognize military proficiency. It is awarded to all German soldiers and is one of the few foreign awards U.S. service members are authorized to wear.

“To me, it’s not just a physical challenge, but there’s also the mental aspect of fighting fatigue, injuries or low morale, and those are the kind of challenges that I live for,” said Cadet Samuel R. Wineland, a student in the College of Engineering’s Science in Information Technology Program. “Joining the [Army] National Guard and ROTC has given me goals to work for, and wanting to be an Army officer has turned into my No. 1 goal.”

When the group travels to Camp Atterbury in Indiana, Friday through Sunday, Feb. 22-24, the cadets will individually compete in a series of events to determine the level of the badge: gold, silver or bronze.

In the rucksack-march category, 7.5 miles within 120 minutes will help earn the top award, 5.6 miles in 90 minutes for the silver and 3.6 miles in 60 minutes for the bronze.

Other timed events include a 200-meter swim, sprint and distant run. Participants also must compete in the long jump or high jump, as well as the shot put, stone throw or softball throw (for female participants). Each participant must pass all required events to be awarded the badge and the certificate.

While the sport disciplines and first aid test are pass-or-fail events, the pistol qualification also determines the level of award. Provided with five 9mm rounds, participants try for five hits across three targets to earn gold, four for silver and three for bronze.

“We’ve been working five days a week since the beginning of the semester to prepare for this competition, and I am very proud of the effort that these young men have displayed,” said Capt. Taylor Jones III, assistant professor of military science. “I am confident that these future Army officers will represent the University well, and each of them will earn the right to wear this coveted foreign award.”

UPDated DIPLOMAS: Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, left, posed for a photo last month with Dr. Susan Gross of the Department of Veteran’s Affairs Toledo Community Based Outpatient Clinic and Dr. Thomas Gross, clinical director of the Department of Veteran’s Affairs Toledo Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Gold presented the graduates of the former Medical College of Ohio with updated diplomas to reflect the 2006 merger with The University of Toledo.
Chekhov’s ‘Three Sisters’ to open Feb. 22

By Angela Riddel

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film will present Anton Chekhov’s “Three Sisters” in a translation by Paul Schmidt, who has been hailed as “the golden standard in Russian-English translation” by Dr. Michael Holquist of Yale University.

Cornel Gabara, UT associate professor of theatre, will direct the play. He directed “Every Good Boy Deserves Favour” at Carnegie Hall and more recently Stravinsky’s “A Soldier’s Tale,” both in collaboration with the Toledo Symphony.

“The production is a result of many years of research that started when I was an actor at the National Theatre of Bucharest, shortly after the fall of Communism, and continued throughout my years in New York City working with directors such as Andrei Serban, whose Tony Award-winning production of ‘The Cherry Orchard’ (starring Meryl Streep) changed American audience’s understanding of Chekhov’s work,” Gabara said.

“Three Sisters,” which the playwright himself refers to as a drama, is a naturalistic play examining the decay of the privileged class as represented through three sisters and their search for meaning in the modern world.

The play was first workshopped in an advanced UT acting class, and Gabara used nontraditional casting to showcase the talent of the diverse student body. He also has incorporated a variety of acting styles, which will make the play more relevant to contemporary American audiences.

“These practices are common in major theater hubs such as New York City,” Gabara said.

The sisters are played by UT theatre students Keely-Rain Battle (Irina), Lindsey Miller (Olga) and Ashley Stephens (Masha).

Other cast members are Ahmad Atallah, Lynnette Bates, Davion Brown, Jeffrey Burden II, Pasha Carter, Timothy Fox, Mitchell Mayes, Andres Medina, Lance Miller, Khara Sims and David Sowders.

Performances will take place Friday through Sunday, Feb. 22-24, and Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 27-March 3, in the Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. except on Sundays, when the show will start at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $12 for general admission; $10 for faculty, staff, alumni and seniors; and $7 for students. They can be purchased online at utoledo.edu/boxoffice, by calling 419.530.2375, or by visiting the Center for Performing Arts Box Office.

Two weekday matinees will be offered Tuesday, Feb. 26, and Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 9:30 a.m. These performances are open to school and community groups for $7 per ticket. To RSVP, contact Angela Riddel at 419.530.2452 or thearts@utoledo.edu.

Now playing

“Breathing Lessons” is a 1996 documentary about Mark O’Brien, who contracted polio as a child and spent much of his life in an iron lung. O’Brien, a journalist and poet, is the main character in the film “The Sessions,” which is up for an Oscar this year.
Bob Seeley exudes enthusiasm talking about music. It’s as much fun listening to his stories as it is hearing the boogie-woogie pianist bounding up and down the keyboard.

He was recalling growing up in Detroit, where he’d ride his bike three miles to the former Club Alamo and Baker’s Keyboard Lounge to learn from the best.

“At the Alamo, I’d sit there in the dining room and listen to Art Tatum play the piano,” Seeley said. “Art would not allow any service by the waitresses or any talking. He was actually giving a concert, and he wanted everything quiet.

“If people were talking at the table and not listening, he’d play his music very, very slow and lean over toward them; when they’d feel the pressure and other people would look and they’d stop, then he’d take off again.”

Seeley had the finest seat in the club — on the legendary pianist’s right side.

“I could reach over and touch him, that’s how close I was. I was just watching him play,” he said. “He was an absolute piano genius.”

Music fans can hear more stories about the Toledo legend when Seeley performs at the Art Tatum Memorial Jazz Scholarship Concert Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

It’ll be a treat when Seeley sits down on the piano bench.

“I’m going to play stuff by Meade Lux Lewis, Albert Ammons and Pete Johnson, the top-notch boogie-woogie piano players. I’m probably the last man standing who not only plays boogie-woogie but who saw those three perform,” the 84-year-old said during a call from his winter home in Bradenton, Fla.

“I’m also going to play some stride piano, get in some blues, some gospel.”

Thanks to some sibling rivalry, Seeley started taking piano lessons at age 13: “My older brother started to sound pretty good, so I wanted to play,” he said.

Two years later, he discovered that energetic, upbeat sound.

“Boogie-woogie is blues-based and it was very exciting. I call it happy blues. It was very rhythmic; it was solo. The left hand did all the rhythm,” Seeley said. “The feeling of the stuff grabbed me. I was very hot to play that.”

He still loves to hit the keys — and stoke the fire.

“I call [boogie-woogie] America’s forgotten music because you don’t hear it anymore,” Seeley said.

He and pianist Bob Baldori are profiled in the 2012 documentary “Boogie Stomp!”

“We sent it to the Clint Eastwood Carmel [Art and Film Festival; they get 2,000 submissions and they pick up 20, and we were one of the 20,” Seeley said. “We didn’t get to meet Clint; he was down in L.A. making a movie.”

But over the years, Seeley has met many celebrities, thanks to his 32-year gig as the pianist at the former Charley’s Crab restaurant just outside of the Motor City.

“I met Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, Kid Rock and Pamela Anderson. I got three kisses out of Pamela Anderson one night, that was pretty cool,” he said. “It was a good musical career. I’m still doing it.”

Last year, he and pianist Lluis Coloma released the disc International Boogie Woogle Explosion.

Tickets to see Seeley are $15 for the public and $5 for students, seniors and UT faculty and staff, and will be available at the door the night of the performance.

The concert is a benefit for the Art Tatum Memorial Jazz Scholarship Fund, which assists musically gifted African-American undergraduate music majors, preferably jazz pianists. The scholarship was established in 1994 and endowed in 2002 by several donors, including the Art Tatum Jazz Heritage Society.
Rethinking trial of Haymarket anarchists topic of Feb. 25 lecture

By Rachel Phipps

Dr. Timothy Messer-Kruse, a professor in the School of Cultural and Critical Studies at Bowling Green State University, will visit the UT College of Law to address his work to uncover new evidence and revise long-held interpretations of the famed 1886 Haymarket Bombing in Chicago, as well as his unlikely battle to make a small edit to the Wikipedia page on the subject.

His free, public lecture, “Rethinking the Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists,” will be held Monday, Feb. 25, at noon in the Law Center McQuade Auditorium.

On May 4, 1886, a labor rally in Chicago turned deadly when a bomb was thrown at police officers. The subsequent trial of eight Chicago anarchists for the death of patrolman Mathias Degan was one of the most followed and controversial trials of the Gilded Age. For more than a century afterward, historians have characterized the Haymarket trial as amounting to little more than a show, with a biased judge, illegally obtained evidence, perjured testimony and a hand-picked jury.

Messer-Kruse has written two recent books — *The Haymarket Trial: Terrorism and Justice in the Gilded Age* and *The Haymarket Conspiracy: Transatlantic Anarchist Networks* — debunking many of the longstanding myths surrounding this famous event. The former title was named the Best Labor History Book of 2012 by the journal Labor History and awarded its annual book prize.

In his lecture, Messer-Kruse will re-examine the procedures, contemporary standards and evidence of the landmark Haymarket trial. He also will discuss his battle to edit the Wikipedia page on the subject, a story he has shared with media outlets, including NPR and The Chronicle of Higher Education.

“While perhaps little known today, the Haymarket trial is one of the most notorious trials in U.S. history,” said Daniel J. Steinbock, dean of the College of Law. “With its combination of revisionist history and a Wikipedia angle, this talk promises a fascinating insight into both the 19th and 21st centuries.”

While his area of specialization is in the field of U.S. labor history, Messer-Kruse has published on a diverse array of subjects, including race relations, the invention of corporate lobbying, and class conflict in early auto racing.

Messer-Kruse received his PhD in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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EYE WITNESS: Benjamin Davis, UT associate professor of law, gave a talk earlier this month about his recent trip to the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba. He observed approximately 20 hours of military court proceedings, including pretrial hearings held for the self-proclaimed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his four alleged co-conspirators.

LAW AND SCIENCE: David Harris, a former faculty member in the UT College of Law, returned to campus last month to discuss his new book, *Failed Evidence: Why Law Enforcement Resists Science*. A leading national authority on racial profiling, Harris taught at UT from 1990 to 2007 and now is a professor of law at the University of Pittsburgh. He writes and comments frequently in the media on police practices, racial profiling, and other criminal justice and national security issues. He has appeared on “The Today Show,” “Dateline NBC” and National Public Radio, and has been interviewed by The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and the Los Angeles Times.
Student Organization Gala to take place Feb. 25

The University of Toledo’s Public Relations Student Society of America will host the fourth annual Student Organization Gala Monday, Feb. 25.

The event will be held in the Student Union Auditorium from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

This year’s theme, “You Are the CEO of Your Dreams,” is inspired by Dr. Antoine Moss’ book titled Learn to Intern CEO Style.

Moss will give a keynote address at the event. He is a recognized expert on internships, early career achievement, leadership and motivation. A contributor for the career section of BlackEnterprise.com, Moss speaks regularly at colleges to inspire the next generation.

The Student Organization Gala will include a dinner catered by Aramark and is free to all UT organizations. There’ll be Photobooth Live and a DJ from WXUT 88.3, UT’s student-run radio station.

Free to active members of any UT student organization, the event aims to celebrate the accomplishments and diversity of all student organizations at the University.

The gala is capped at 300 guests. Student organization leaders should submit an active member RSVP list to utstudentgala3@gmail.com by Wednesday, Feb. 20, to secure seating for the event.

For more information, check out Facebook: UT Student Organization Gala and Twitter: @UTStudentGala or email utstudentgala3@gmail.com.

Outstanding Teacher Award nominations due March 8

Take a few minutes and recognize that teacher, the one who inspired you, challenged you, encouraged you and motivated you to be your best.

Nominations are being accepted for the Outstanding Teacher Awards through Friday, March 8, at 5 p.m.

Students, alumni, faculty and staff are asked to nominate teachers who exemplify excellence.

The online nomination form is at u Toledo.edu/offices/provost/outstandingteacher.

Any full-time faculty member who has not received the Outstanding Teacher Award is eligible; a list of past winners is online with the nomination form.

The outstanding teachers are selected by a committee of UT faculty and a student representative who review nominations. The committee’s deliberations are confidential; no one outside the group knows the content of the nominations or the identity of the nominators.

The content of the supporting statement from the nominator weighs heavily in the evaluation of candidates. Nominators are asked to give specific examples that demonstrate the nominee’s ability as an outstanding teacher.

Awards will be presented at the UT Outstanding Awards Reception, which will take place Monday, April 22, at 4 p.m. in the Student Union Ingman Room.

For more information on nominations, contact Amanda Kessler of the UT Alumni Relations Office at 419.530.7859 or at amanda.schwartz@utoledo.edu.

Students encouraged to apply for Phi Kappa Phi scholarships

The UT chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is accepting applications for its Awards of Excellence scholarships for students who will be returning to the University in fall 2013.

Three awards of $500 will be awarded.

To be eligible, students must have a GPA of 3.6 or higher or equivalent. Each applicant must submit a resumé, a 500-word essay and two letters of recommendation.

The deadline for submitting applications is Monday, March 18.

Applicants do not need to be a member of Phi Kappa Phi to be eligible for the scholarship. Graduate students also are encouraged to apply.

The application form is available at http://bit.ly/PKPToledoScholarship or by contacting Barbara Floyd at 419.530.2170, Wade Lee at 419.530.4490, or Dr. Tom Barden at 419.530.5234.

Toledo Transition Program to improve experience for students with disabilities

The University of Toledo will work to develop, test and refine a statewide model that delivers inclusive postsecondary options to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the Toledo Transition Program.

Through the program, students with disabilities will participate in college classes, internships and social experiences.

Dr. Patricia Devlin, UT associate professor of early childhood, physical and disabilities will participate in college classes, internships and social experiences.

“Students, undergraduate and graduate, studying to be special education teachers serve as educational coaches offering individualized support for the Toledo Transition students, so it is really a win-win program for all,” Devlin said.

UT, OSU and Xavier University will serve as the three pilot sites for the new postsecondary program, of which there are more than 300 nationwide.

Devlin will discuss the Toledo Transition Program Tuesday, Feb. 19, at noon in Gillham Hall Room 3100-C.

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newsstands on the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome.

Send information by campus mail to #949, University Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. E-mail: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Communications Office, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

The University of Toledo is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in education, employment, membership and contracts, and no differentiation will be made based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status or the presence of a disability. The University will take affirmative action as required by federal or state law.
UTMC awarded $50,000 to prevent, control infections

By Samantha Watson

With the help of a $50,000 grant, UT Medical Center staff members will add to their expertise on infection prevention and control.

The Heroes Research Award was given to the UTMC Infection Prevention and Control Department to help fund an educational series titled “I Can Prevent.” This lunchtime lecture series will provide UTMC employees with information on topics such as isolation precautions, hand hygiene, insertion techniques and care.

There will be two lecture series per year, beginning late this spring, designed to add to the existing infection prevention knowledge of each employee. The grant money will go toward lunches, materials, incentives as well as experts speaking on topics.

“There are very few of us whose job it is to handle infection prevention, but it is every health-care worker’s responsibility,” said Kristen Woodman, infection control coordinator at UTMC. “With this lecture series, we hope to equip UTMC personnel with advanced infection prevention knowledge.”

The grant is an extension of the Heroes of Infection Prevention Award given by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc. UTMC was one of two winners, the other being the Department of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston.

These two departments were chosen based on their plans to implement science and education to advance infection prevention in their respective hospitals.

“This grant is possible because of the department’s passion for patient safety,” Woodman said. “It was definitely a team effort.”

UT to celebrate national TRIO Day Feb. 23

National TRIO Day will bring together students and alumni who succeeded in college thanks to assistance from the national program to celebrate Saturday, Feb. 23, at 8:15 a.m. in The University of Toledo Scott Park Campus Auditorium.

Since 1964, more than 10.5 million Americans (67 percent from poor and working families) have benefited from the services of the TRIO pre-college and college programs: Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program and the Educational Opportunity Centers.

As access and retention services are an essential component of the federal strategy to ensure equal educational opportunity, Congress established the TRIO Programs nearly 50 years ago. These programs enable Americans regardless of economic circumstance, race or ethnic background to successfully enter college and graduate.

Sushi to be served Thursdays on Main Campus

Sushi will be available each Thursday starting this week in the South Dining Hall in the Student Union. UT Dining and Hospitality Services has partnered with Sushi on the Roll, a restaurant in Medina, Ohio, to offer the Japanese food.

Hand-rolled sushi will be prepared fresh throughout lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pre-pay for the premium meal at the cashier stand for an additional $6.50. Meal swipes, Dining Dollars, Rocket Dollars, cash and credit will be accepted.

For more information about UT Dining and Hospitality Services, go to facebook.com/utoledodiningservices or utoledo.campusdish.com.
Bon appetit for a good cause during Restaurant Week Toledo

Twenty-seven local restaurants have prepared special menus for Restaurant Week Toledo 2013, which will take place from Thursday, Feb. 21, through Saturday, March 2.

Now in its third year, this event will be presented by Medical Mutual.

Some of Toledo’s best restaurants are participating in the week. Each has developed special prix-fixe menus with cuisine for both lunch and dinner.

The special menus, available only during the 10 days of Restaurant Week Toledo, will feature lunch and dinner options priced at $10, $20 or $30 (excluding beverages, tax and gratuities). Restaurant Week Toledo promotions are dine-in only. Due to the event’s popularity, reservations are recommended.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will support Leadership Toledo, a nonprofit organization that promotes leadership development for area youth and adults.

“There is real excitement in the community about Restaurant Week Toledo 2013,” said David Schlaudecker, executive director of Leadership Toledo. “Our goals are to increase awareness of the many dining opportunities found here, stimulate business for restaurants, and raise awareness of the educational mission of Leadership Toledo.

“The overwhelming success of our prior two efforts caused the demand for additional days, thus the extension to 10 days,” he added.

Participating restaurants are Bar 145, Barr’s Public House, The Blarney, Bobby V’s, Burger Bar 419, the Cafe at Oliver House, Capers, Gradowski’s, ICE Restaurant and Bar, LaScola, Loma Linda’s, Maney’s Bluewater Grille, Maney’s Steakhouse, Manhattan’s, the Maumee Bay Brew Pub, Maumee Wines and Bistro, Mutz, Plate 21, Poco Piatti, Registry Bistro, Rockwell’s, Rosie’s Italian Grille, Shorty’s, Tea Tree Asian Bistro, TREO, Ventura’s and Zinful.

Go to restaurantweektoledo.com to see the participating restaurants’ special menus, maps and locations.

For more information on Restaurant Week Toledo 2013, contact Cory Dippold at 419.241.7371 or cory@leadershiptoledo.org.

Toledo City Council member teaching class on community organizing

By Casey Cheap

Once seen as rebellious questioning of the establishment, community organizing is now mainstream.

Ever since the 2008 presidential election, there has been plenty of analysis on how and why community organizing led to the election of President Barack Obama and how it will affect future elections.

This semester, Lindsay Webb, a member of the Toledo City Council, is teaching a new course on community organizing.

Sociology 4100, Community Organizing and Development, has one section and meets Thursday nights.

“This is my first time teaching in any setting,” Webb said. “The course will involve numerous practical examples around community organizing and community development, and will include information on Toledo case studies.”

Webb said the class would look at both local and national levels of community organizing, and would focus on the history and traditions as well as specific cases such as two involving the Northwest Ohio Conservative Coalition and Moveon.org.

Both President Obama and former President George W. Bush have utilized community organizing as a means to get elected, with President Obama’s get-out-the-vote initiative in 2008 and 2012, and Bush’s organization through the National Rifle Association and other organizations in 2000 and 2004.

The game changed between 2008 and last year’s election with greater access to new technology and a steep decline in the number of U.S. homes with phone landlines.

“We will look at what works and how social media has changed it,” Webb said.

In addition to her time as a member of the Toledo City Council, Webb has been involved with the National Employment Law Project, a nonprofit worker advocacy group that has helped unemployed and dislocated workers, as well as immigrants and low-income people.

Webb said she contacted the University after having a chance to work with UT students. Her passion for the topic she is teaching has motivated her to enter the classroom.

“I have had the chance to interface with a number of social work students,” Webb said. “I felt like I would be good at it.”

A UT alumna, Webb has a bachelor of arts degree in urban affairs and a law degree from UT. She said she spent much of her time in political science classes while attending the University.
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