President in annual address: Universities are key to preserving American dream

By Meghan Cunningham

The American dream is in danger of disappearing and it is up to great 21st-century universities such as The University of Toledo to preserve it, UT President Lloyd Jacobs said during his seventh annual address to the community Sept. 19.

“Much of what constitutes the strength of our communities is comprised of, or connected to, the idea of the American dream and that dream is disappearing. That dream is weakening,” Jacobs told a crowd of more than 350 in the newly renovated Doermann Theater.

Universities that become an active, permeating presence in their communities and migrate toward the “cloud university” model represent our best hope for securing the values of the American dream, Jacobs said.

“I do believe that a great university like this University has a role in the preservation of the American dream,” he said. “To elevate what it is to be a human being, to improve the human condition, requires some irreducible level of prosperity and health, both strongly influenced by the 21st-century university.”

The American dream is dependent upon mobility, he said, with opportunities that allow those who work hard to achieve a more comfortable present and stronger future. But a confluence of factors negatively impact that dream, including the “hollowing out of the middle class” and possible characteristics of the millennial generation such as the need for near-instant gratification when

Education innovator inspires UT One World Schoolhouse

By Meghan Cunningham

Salman Khan, a former hedge fund analyst who is revolutionizing education, has inspired a new initiative at The University of Toledo to enhance technological advancements in education.

Khan is the founder of the Khan Academy, a not-for-profit organization with a mission to bring a top-tier education to anyone with an Internet connection. His educational videos and software are used by more than 8 million registered users in 200 countries and are part of some 20,000 classrooms.

“It’s beyond surreal on some level these simple ideas are able to empower all these people all over the planet to tap into their potential,” Khan said Tuesday during a lecture in Doermann Theater that kicked off the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.

He told the story behind the Khan Academy that really started with him working to help his cousin through a math concept. The long-distance tutoring lessons led to public videos on YouTube that people around the world began finding and using to learn the concepts as well. Eventually the videos caught the attention of Bill Gates and Google, which both provided grant money to fund the expansion of Khan Academy into the education technology tool that it is today.

Khan mentioned several times during his speech his support for teachers and the important work they do. He sees his technology as a way to support their efforts and free up more classroom time for innovative learning games and projects or to provide one-on-one mentorship to students.

Human trafficking conference to celebrate 10 years combating issue

By Meghan Cunningham

A decade ago, the concept of human trafficking was virtually unknown to the American public. Thankfully, not anymore.

Dr. Celia Williamson, UT professor of social work, has advocated to bring light to the issue and influence changes to limit the modern day slavery that each year forces hundreds of thousands of women, boys and girls to sell their bodies.

“It’s vital that people know that trafficking isn’t something that only happens someplace else. It’s not just other countries or other communities. It’s here in Toledo and everywhere,” said Williamson, who also is the founder of Second Chance, a social service program located in Toledo that provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic sex trafficking and prostitution.

“We are not talking about people from other countries being smuggled into America, although that happens. There are at least 100,000 youth victims here in the United States ever year, compared to 17,500 victims from other countries brought here. It’s a real problem that needs to be addressed and that we are working to address.”

The efforts of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and the Annual International Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Sex Work Conference, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month, have influenced reforms of Ohio laws and captured the attention of the FBI. Interactions at the conferences also have led...
perseverance and tolerance for delayed gratification are essential in the pursuit of the American dream.

Education continues to be the single most important means for attainment of the dream, Jacobs said.

“So, in a real way, universities not only enable individual students to value and realize the dream, but strengthen the fabric of our society in a way that facilitates the preservation of the dream,” he said. “The influences of a university upon a society should include emphasis on prosperity and distributive justice for all, good health and longevity for every segment of society.”

UT is doing its part with a number of relationships with local, regional and global impacts.

The University’s Confucius Institute and its relationship with the Hanban, a Chinese public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education, shares culture and language and strengthens connections between the United States and China. Similarly, UT has entered a collaborative agreement with the PSG Institute of Management and PSG Institute of Advanced Studies in India that will contribute to our culture of diversity and broaden our understanding of global culture, the president said.

“Other forms of experiential learning advanced simulation and educational learning that takes many forms, including enhanced by technology and experiential personalized education that is facilitated and in the future, is a balanced combination of education.”

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Fans of all ages wanted autographs from Salman Khan, who signed copies of his book, The One World Schoolhouse: Education Reimagined, after his talk last week.

“Our goal is to position The University of Toledo as the university of experiential learning. The use of the term, ‘One World Schoolhouse,’ signals our University’s intent to test and then apply Khan’s model of education where it applies best,” Scarborough said.

The initiative will be led by Bill McCreary, a former Owens-Illinois executive with years of high-level managerial and technical expertise.

The University now will enter the tactical phase for creation of the UT One World Schoolhouse, with the entity expected to be operational in fall 2014.
Benefits enrollment to begin Oct. 1
By Kim Goodin

Open enrollment for 2014 health benefits will take place throughout the month of October.
Following a procedure that has been successful for the past few years, enrollment will be conducted entirely online. Only required documentation — spousal/domestic partner health-care eligibility affidavits, birth certificates and marriage certificates — will be accepted in hard-copy form.

“All benefit-eligible employees must complete the online open enrollment process,” said Denise Shordt, senior benefits specialist in Human Resources and Talent Development. “Even if you don’t intend to enroll, you must waive the option.

“Our employees have become very comfortable with the process. The ease and convenience are big pluses of completing registration online. It literally takes just a few minutes and can be done anywhere with access to computers, laptops or smart devices.”

As with last year, users will go to an open enrollment link on the myUT portal located on the University’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.

“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:

• Dependents between the ages of 19 and 26 are no longer required to enroll in their own employer-sponsored health-care coverage. If eligible, they can enroll in UT’s health care as their primary coverage.
• Annual limits to Health Savings Accounts have been changed by the Internal Revenue Service to $3,300 for single plans and $6,550 for family plans.

Details regarding each health-care plan, as well as support information, will be available on HR’s website Tuesday, Oct. 1. An explanatory PowerPoint presentation also will be available on the open enrollment website.

Computers will be available for employee access Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Human Resources and Talent Development offices on Health Science Campus (Facilities Support Building) and the department’s new location in Academic Services Center Room 1000 on Scott Park Campus.

Employees who require personal assistance with online enrollment are advised to email benefits@utoledo.edu.

Although open enrollment ends at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, Shordt encouraged employees not to wait until the last minute.

“The process is simple and self-explanatory, but we don’t want any questions you may have to go unanswered,” Shordt said. “Our offices close at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31. If you register after that, we won’t be available to help guide you, if necessary.”

New benefits selections will be effective Jan. 1.

Office of Inclusion addresses allegations of harassment to ensure safe learning environment

The University of Toledo takes all allegations of harassment seriously and investigates all complaints, whether formal or informal, to ensure a safe and secure learning environment.

The UT Office of Inclusion receives and fully investigates any complaint and takes the appropriate actions.

“This institution takes harassment of any type very seriously and has no tolerance for it,” said Kevin West, the University’s inclusion officer who leads the investigations.

“UT recently had an incident where a sizable portion of the UT community received an email alleging harassment that ultimately turned out to be inaccurate and unfounded.”

The incident is an opportunity to inform the campus community about UT’s harassment policy and the process for reporting harassment of any kind, West said.

The University inclusion officer serves as the Title IX coordinator for UT charged with institutional monitoring, education and investigating of sex discrimination, harassment and sexual violence. The single most important responsibility of the University inclusion officer is the protection against sexual harassment or assault. Notification of any type of allegations of this nature, including but not limited to physical harassment or quid pro quo harassment, are taken seriously and investigated.

Following a formal or informal complaint, a member of the office meets with the person who filed the complaint to initiate an investigation. Any additional witnesses then are interviewed as necessary. Confidentiality is a priority for the office and it will be given the utmost respect, West said.

“The University of Toledo believes in providing a safe and secure learning environment,” West said. “The policies and processes followed by the Office of Inclusion help to ensure that the learning experience of all students, faculty and staff are of the highest quality.”

If any student, staff or faculty member feels that they have experienced or have been subjected to any form of harassment or other prohibited activity, contact the Office of Inclusion at 419.530.2508.

Human trafficking

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The conference will feature more than 45 presenters who will share the latest in research, policy and programs to address the issue of human trafficking. There will be presentations about recruitment in jails, how hotels and motels facilitate trafficking, transgender youth in the sex trade and more. International components include examining trafficking concerns in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

High school students from the Toledo area also will attend for the first time this year with specific programs aimed at that population.

For registration details and more information on the conference, visit prostitutionconference.com.

In memoriam

Joseph Czerniekwski. Toledo, a custodian at UT from 1977 until his retirement in 1993, died Sept. 8 at age 81.

Paul Paquette. Toledo, professor of criminal justice from 1993 to 2003, died Sept. 12 at age 65. A nationally recognized expert on terrorism, Paquette joined the University as director of the two-year corrections program at the former Community and Technical College.
Engineering Career Expo slated for Sept. 25

The University of Toledo Engineering Career Development Center will host its Fall 2013 Engineering Career Expo Wednesday, Sept. 25.

There are more than 100 companies registered to attend the event with additional companies expected to register. The expo will be an opportunity for students to meet with employers for networking and future employment.

“Many companies from across the United States participate in this event,” said Dr. Vickie Kuntz, director of the Engineering Career Development Center.

“Some big name participants include Chrysler, Cooper Tire, DTE Energy, First Energy, General Mills, Honda of America, J.M. Smuckers, Johnson & Johnson, Kiewit, Marathon, NASA and Whirlpool.”

More than 600 engineering students have attended past career expos, according to Kuntz. She said she expects between 600 and 700 students and alumni to participate at this year’s fall event as well.

Only UT College of Engineering students, grads and alumni are eligible to attend.

“The expo is only open to University of Toledo students who are in the College of Engineering. However, UT engineering graduates who have been in the work force for a few years and are interested in exploring other positions are also welcome,” Kuntz said.

The UT Engineering Fall 2013 Career Expo will be held on the first floor of Nitschke Hall and North Engineering from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Students do not need to register prior to the event; there will be a student check-in area starting at 12:15 p.m.

Medical student’s research published in journal

By Samantha Watson

Curious about the namesake of Becker Muscular Dystrophy, UT medical student Frank Hill did some research on the doctor who discovered it. As it turns out, Dr. Peter Emil Becker was a Nazi.

During his research, Hill first stumbled across an autobiographical article written in 1985 in which Becker denies ever being a member of the Nazi party. But further into his research, Hill discovered a German federal government document that said otherwise: Becker’s denazification file.

“Right then I thought it was sort of interesting that in 1985, in the twilight of his career, Dr. Becker denies ever having been a member of the Nazi party,” Hill said. “But I have his denazification file from 1948 — which clearly says that he was, in fact, a member.”

Hill’s interest in medicine during the Third Reich era led him to research the doctor further, knowing that he was alive and in Germany during that time. He planned to use his research for a class presentation in his History of Medicine elective course.

After his presentation, Hill was encouraged by Dr. Steven H. Selman, professor of urology, to do more. He wrote an article, which was published in the August issue of the American Journal of Medical Genetics, which actually is the same journal that featured Becker’s autobiographical article in 1985.

“I really want to encourage other students to do the elective because it inspired me to do solid research on a topic that interested me,” said Hill, a third-year student pursuing doctor of medicine and master of business administration degrees.

Hill is the third student from the History of Medicine elective course to have a paper published. In 2011, Bradley Buck had a paper published in the journal Urology, and student Petar Bajic was published in the journal Xenotransplantation in 2012.

Hussain lecture to discuss pioneer Scottish surgeon and patron of body snatchers

By Samantha Watson

In 18th-century Europe, body snatching was a crime punishable by death, but that didn’t stop Dr. John Hunter from collecting bodies for teaching anatomy and conducting medical research.

Although his methods were illegal, Hunter’s work paved the way for experimental medicine and the adoption of surgery as a respectable craft.

Author Wendy Moore wrote a biography on his life and work, The Knife Man, which she will travel from London to the Glass City to discuss at the fifth annual S. Amjad Hussain Visiting Lecture in the History of Medicine and Surgery.

The free, public lecture, “The Knife Man: Life and Times of John Hunter (1728-1793),” will be Thursday, Sept. 26, at 5 p.m. in Health Education Room 100 on UT’s Health Science Campus.

“In John Hunter, we have a cumulative legacy of a great man whose work paved the way for future advances and, 250 years later, we are still benefiting from his concepts,” said Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, UT professor emeritus of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and member of the University Board of Trustees. “His impact is limited not only to surgery or medicine but also in natural sciences. And to top it off, he was the patron saint of the body snatchers.”

Moore started her writing career as a journalist specializing in crime and later health care — a background that fueled her interests in Hunter.

“John Hunter was a remarkable man: an inspired surgeon, a brilliant anatomist and an unparalleled naturalist,” Moore said. “He managed to fit into one life of 65 years more than most people could manage in several lifetimes.”

Moore was selected for this year’s lecture by a committee that included Hussain, Dr. Gerald B. Zelenock, professor and chair of surgery, and Dr. Steven H. Selman, professor and chair of urology, who teaches the History of Medicine elective.

Hussain hopes to see the History of Medicine course become part of the curriculum because of the importance of medicine’s past.

“It does not matter what operation we do — it has a beginning somewhere in the past,” Hussain said. “Somebody thought of it and performed it and others followed and refined it. When we perform a surgical procedure or treat a patient with medications, we are always connected to the pioneers who had led the way before us.”

RSVPs to attend the S. Amjad Hussain Visiting Lecture in the History of Medicine and Surgery are requested by Monday, Sept. 23; email k.edwards@utoledo.edu or call 419.383.5416.
Author/legal expert to discuss culture of bullying Sept. 26

By Rachel Phipps

Emily Bazelon, author, senior editor at Slate, and the Truman Capote Fellow for Creative Writing and Law at Yale Law School, will discuss the culture of bullying Thursday, Sept. 26, at noon in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium.

The free, public lecture titled “Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy” is part of the College of Law’s Cannon Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the President’s Lecture Series on Diversity.

Bazelon, a leading authority on the shifting landscape of bullying in the cyber age, will guide the audience on a journey through the social and legal ramifications to answer key questions: Which school programs work best to combat bullying? How effective are laws at protecting children from this trauma? What do recent high-profile cases of bullying tell us about how the issue has changed over the years? How are people using new technologies — mobile phones, social media, texting — to both spread and combat bullying?

Importantly, Bazelon also asks if bullying is happening to the degree that media reports suggest.

Her book, Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy, has won widespread acclaim since its release earlier this year and is a New York Times Bestseller.

“As events of even the past few days have illustrated, bullying can have the most serious consequences. We are fortunate to have one of the nation’s most thoughtful students of bullying speaking to the law school, the University and the greater Toledo community about this vexing social and legal issue,” said Daniel J. Steinbock, dean of the College of Law.

Bazelon is a New York Times Magazine contributing writer. She has spoken to audiences from the Aspen Ideas Festival to the Texas Bar Association to TEDxWomen. She is a member of the Slate “Political Gabfest” and is a frequent guest on “The Colbert Report.”

She also has appeared on “Today,” “PBS Newshour,” “Morning Joe,” “Fresh Air” and “All Things Considered.” Her writing has appeared in The Atlantic, O: The Oprah Magazine, The Washington Post and Mother Jones.

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Law professor named to list of top African-American professors in Ohio

By Rachel Phipps

Llewellyn Joseph Gibbons, UT professor of law, has been named to a list of the top 25 African-American Professors in the state by Online Schools Ohio and StateStats.org.

Gibbons’ scholarship is at the intersection of law, contract and technology. A pioneering professor in the area of cyberlaw, he penned one of the first law review articles to study the theoretical legal principles on which the Internet could be governed.

His new treatise on trademark law, “Mastering Trademark and Unfair Competition Law,” with Lars S. Smith, recently was released. He also has published numerous law review articles, three book chapters and one encyclopedia entry.

Gibbons is at work on books on intellectual property licensing, and trademark myths and the law.

As a Fulbright scholar and after having delivered invited lectures in Argentina, England, China, Finland, Hong Kong, Italy and Singapore, Gibbons has earned an international reputation. His articles have been republished in India and translated into Chinese and Japanese. He is also a Fellow at the Center for the Study of Intellectual Property Rights at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in Wuhan, China, and an elected member of the American Law Institute.

“African-American professors of distinction in Ohio create a broad tapestry of the arts and sciences, excelling in academic teaching and inquiry into music, law, education, history, visual arts and social justice,” according to Online Schools Ohio. “This selection of the top 25 African American educators in the Buckeye State draws from major research universities as well as from teaching colleges. These celebrated educators, writers, artists, policy experts and scientists share a singular commitment to fostering educational diversity and opportunity.”
Chinese Moon Festival debuts

ENLIGHTENING EXPERIENCE: Mohammad Melebari, a student majoring in computer science engineering technology, and Asmaa Alblool, center, and Afnan Malebari, both students at the American Language Institute, painted Chinese paper lanterns.

FEEL THE RHYTHM: Jacob Torres and Cristina Erazo danced last week during Salsa on the Steps. The event, sponsored by the Latino Student Union, was part of UT’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Torres is president of the Latino Student Union, and Erazo is a member of the organization.

CATCHING SOME AIR: Charles O’Donnell, a senior and Theta Chi member, worked on some skateboard tricks in McComas Village.

PHOTO OP: Taylor Yetzer, left, and Sarah Mulennix donned Chinese opera masks at the photo booth.

WEAVING GOOD FORTUNE: Ali Alyousef made a Chinese luck bracelet.
Chinese Language Courses offered by UT Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute at The University of Toledo is offering evening non-credit courses for Toledo area communities. These classes include basic, intermediate, advanced and business Chinese. Experienced Chinese instructors also can customize courses offered during the day. Classes can be private for individuals, or small group classes can be formed. Students receive textbook and teaching materials and will earn a certificate upon course completion.

Language classes cost $30 per hour for an individual session and $200 per student for 12 group classes of three or more people. UT students can take classes for free; however, there is a $30 fee for teaching materials.

If you prefer small group sessions, individuals may form a group with friends and contact the Confucius Institute to schedule dates and meeting times.

For additional information and to register, contact Hong Zhao at Hong.Zhao@utoledo.edu or call 419.530.7750.

‘The Relevant University’ to air Sept. 24

Tune in to “The Relevant University” Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. on AM 760 WJR.

This month, Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs, explores the complex health-care industry to discover the latest trends in medical education and policy.

In this episode:
• Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, UT chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, talks about the school’s upcoming 50th anniversary.
• Dr. Sean Kesterson, associate dean of clinical education and hospital relations for the Central Michigan University College of Medicine, provides information on the start of the new college.
• Dr. Carol Aschembrener, chief medical education officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges, discusses the future of medical education.
• And Robin Erb, medical writer for the Detroit Free Press, explains what the launch of the Affordable Care Act Oct. 1 means for you.

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Help Rocky, The University of Toledo mascot, go all the way in the Capital One Mascot Challenge. Each week, Rocky needs your votes to defeat another mascot and win the match. You can cast unlimited votes each day at capitalonebowl.com. To really give Rocky a boost, you can earn 25 or 100 points by tweeting or posting the weekly challenge. Learn more and cast your vote for Rocky at capitalonebowl.com.

#GoRockets #CapitalOneRocket