Politicking

Dr. Michael Sandel, the political philosopher from Harvard University, discussed “Doing the Right Thing in Public and Private Life” Thursday night at the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture. He presented scenarios with moral and ethical dilemmas to the more than 800 in Nitschke Hall Auditorium, and audience members shared their opinions. He closed by discussing the importance of engaged public discourse on issues and problems faced in everyday life. The Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government at Harvard is the author of Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do? and What Money Can’t Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets.

Former head of Federal Election Commission to speak Sept. 29

Former Federal Election Commissioner Hans A. von Spakovsky will discuss “The Reality of Voter Fraud and How to Ensure Election Integrity” Monday, Sept. 29, at noon in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium.

The free, public lecture is a presentation in The University of Toledo College of Law’s Stranahan National Issues Forum and is sponsored by the college and its chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

Von Spakovsky, manager of the Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, says that voter fraud has plagued American elections since the founding and that it continues to do so today.

He proposes measures that states should take to deter, prevent and detect fraud without inhibiting the ability of anyone who is eligible to register and vote. The experience of states that have implemented these election reforms shows, according to von Spakovsky, that the claims made by opponents of election reform are untrue, and that maintaining the confidence of the American electorate in the election process is of vital importance.


“Von Spakovsky’s lecture is a perfect fit for Ohio, which faces a major election this fall.”

Von Spakovsky is co-author of Who’s Counting? How Fraudsters and Bureaucrats Put Your Vote at Risk (Encounter Books, 2012). His analysis and commentary have appeared in many publications, including...
McGraw-Hill Higher Education president to speak at conference

By Lindsay Mahaney

Social media is a tool that Brian Kibby said he believes is highly important in today’s world. Kibby said social media is also a tool that students can use to brand themselves, which is very important in the job market. If used correctly, it’s a powerful resource that can help you get noticed, he said.

“Building a brand takes time,” he said. “If you wait to do it when you need it, it’s a major mistake. Build it before you need it.”

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“Building a brand takes time,” he said. “If you wait to do it when you need it, it’s a major mistake. Build it before you need it.”

Kibby will speak at the University’s second annual uHeart Digital Media conference, which will be held Thursday and Friday, Oct. 9 and 10, at the Radisson Hotel on UT’s Health Science Campus. Early registration is $80 and $55 for students. Starting Friday, Oct. 3, the cost will be $100.

For more information and to register, visit http://uheartdigitalmedia.com.

Federal Election Commission

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The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Times, Politico and Human Events. He appears regularly on national and regional TV and radio news outlets. Previously, von Spakovsky worked at the Justice Department providing expertise enforcing the Voting Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. He is a former vice chair of the Fairfax County (Va.) Electoral Board and a former member of the Virginia Advisory Board to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

A 1984 graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Law, von Spakovsky received a bachelor’s degree in 1981 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Stranahan National Issues Forum is made possible by an endowment from the Stranahan Foundation. The forum’s purpose is to address issues of national importance through the lens of the American legal system, and von Spakovsky joins a long list of high-profile speakers who have delivered the Stranahan Lecture at The University of Toledo College of Law.

Trustees

continued from p. 1

by 2 percent as UT works to make premiums uniform across all collective bargaining units and employee groups.

The new contract also establishes labor-management committees that will leverage strong partnerships to drive improvements in patient care and satisfaction, and to address unique employee occupational categories.

“I want to thank the AFSCME leadership and their members for their ongoing commitment to patient care, education and to this University,” said Interim President Nagi Naganathan. “This is another important step forward for The University of Toledo.”

Trustees also approved a plan by the College of Law to reduce tuition by 13 percent in response to a nationwide decline in the number of law school applicants during the last five years.

Daniel Steinbock, dean of the College of Law, said UT’s bar passage rates are high, its job placement rates are strong, UT’s faculty are widely quoted in national media and cited in legal research, and the college has an active alumni base that includes prominent lawyers and judges.

“The change in tuition will lower the financial threshold that can be a barrier for many to seek advanced legal education,” Steinbock said.

The change represents a reduction of about $2,700 that will place UT’s in-state tuition at $17,900. The college also is emphasizing programs in addition to the juris doctor, such as the master of studies in law degree for professionals looking to increase their legal knowledge in a specific area — like health care — but don’t have positions that require admission to the bar.

A presentation outlining the University’s and UT Medical Center’s responses to the Aug. 2-4 water crisis also was reviewed and included steps taken to mitigate negative affects on patients, students and employees if the situation were to happen again, and opportunities created by the advisory for UT faculty and researchers to be leaders in helping to address the algae problem.
According to the 2010 United States Census, 16 percent of its spoken population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. Spanish is the second most common language in the United States, which is the fifth largest Spanish-speaking country behind Mexico, Spain, Colombia and Argentina.

The Diamante Awards, hosted by The University of Toledo, will be held Friday, Sept. 26, at 6 p.m. at Premier Banquet Hall, 4480 Heatherdowns Blvd.

This year’s event marks 25 years of honoring Latino leadership and achievements in northwest Ohio. The awards take place during National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

The Diamante Awards recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding achievement and service to the Latino and greater Toledo communities. The event, a collaboration among Bowling Green State University, Herzog University, Lourdes University, Owens Community College and The University of Toledo, also serves to raise scholarship funds for Latino youth seeking advanced degrees.

“The Latino community grew over 50 percent since 2000. It currently is the largest ethnic community in the United States and shows no signs of slowing down. At this rate, by 2050, one in three U.S. citizens will be of Latino heritage,” said Margarita De Leon, Diamante Awards co-founder and volunteer chair. “The call for the Latino community to assume the mantle of leadership and to mentor and inspire younger leaders has never been greater.”

The 2014 award recipients are:

- Latino/Latina Youth Leadership: Stephanie Angel, whose research on stage-four brain tumors as a biology and pre-med major at The University of Toledo won first place in the cellular and molecular biology division and first place among undergraduate competitors at the Sigma Xi Research Symposium.
- Latino/Latina Adult Leadership: Mary Torres, who assists undocumented citizens with the naturalization process by helping them study and apply for the naturalization test.
- Latino/Latina Adult Professional: Dr. Gregory Guzman, former campus president of Herzing University in Toledo, the first Latino in northwest Ohio to hold such a position, and current executive director of Central City Ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Toledo.
- Corporation/Community Agency: Advocates for Basic Legal Equality Inc. and Legal Aid of Western Ohio Inc., which provide high-quality, civil legal assistance to low-income people of northwest Ohio and have maintained a long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Friend of the Latino Community: Dr. Richard Paat, who has been providing free health care to the Latino communities of northwest Ohio, Guatemala and Honduras for more than 15 years.
- Keynote speaker Juana Bordas will address topics from her award-winning book, The Power of Latino Leadership. The Power of Latino Leadership won the 2014 International Latino Book Award for best leadership/business book. Bordas received the Peace Corps Franklin Williams Award for her lifelong commitment to advancing communities of color. She is president of Mestiza Leadership International, a company that focuses on leadership, diversity and organizational change.

“The Latino community is not a race, but a community bound by common cultural attributes and a fusion of all races. This unique makeup puts us in a powerful position to lead. Our ability to tap into the intrinsic nature of our multicultural background puts us in a powerful position to lead in a multicultural country, and a multicultural world, today and in the future,” De Leon said.

Visit DiamanteToledo.org for more information and to register for the event.

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**UT receives national diversity award**

The University of Toledo has received the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

As a recipient of the annual award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion — UT will be featured along with 82 other recipients in INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine’s November issue.

This is the second year UT has been named as a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award recipient.

“INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine selected UT based on our institution’s exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives, and ability to embrace a broad definition of diversity on our campus, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community,” said Dr. Shanda Gore, chief diversity officer and associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement.

Specifically, our Campus Climate Survey, administered every other year since 2010 to students, faculty and staff, has directly resulted in more than 30 initiatives to address needs on campus, such as a safety campaign, support for the anti-bullying campaign, and diversity programming — and has received attention on a national scale from other universities that want to use our data and our survey,” Gore said.

In addition, the Campus Climate Survey responses led to the installation of diversity training with the Culture Building Institute’s Diversity Certificate, which is entering its fourth cohort semester and has graduated 49 UT employees. Diversity training for credit also is available for the first time to graduate-level students starting this fall. Both programs equip participants with specialized understanding of varying cultures and how to promote a culture of diversity on campus and off.

“We hope the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award serves as a way to honor those institutions of higher education that recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion as part of their everyday campus culture,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

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**‘The Relevant University’ to air Sept. 23**

Tune in to “The Relevant University” Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. on AM 760 WJR.

This month, Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs, is joined by leaders in the marketing and digital world as The University of Toledo gears up to host its second annual uHeart Digital Media Conference Thursday and Friday, Oct. 9 and 10.

In this month’s episode:

- Brian Kibby, president of McGraw-Hill Higher Education, will discuss the role of digital media in the academic world.
- Jeff Sims, customer relationship manager and research manager for the Detroit Lions, will address the technology that the team uses to promote its brand.
- Kim Adams House, head of Jeep Brand Advertising for Chrysler Group LLC, will talk about the importance of branding through digital media in the car industry.
- And John Policicchio, senior vice president of marketing at the MotorCity Casino Hotel, shares exciting new initiatives from the company.

The University and Detroit’s WJR Radio produce the monthly, hourlong program that explores the critical role higher education plays in our world. Listen at utoledo.edu/therelevantuniversity.
Join UT in celebrating right to read freely; stop by vigil Sept. 25

By Cassandra DeYoung

Independent thinkers across the country, including UT students, faculty and staff, and Toledo-area citizens, will celebrate freedom of expression during the 17th Annual UT Banned Books Week Vigil Thursday, Sept. 25.

Inspired by the American Library Association’s Banned Books Week, the event will start at 9 a.m. and run through 5 p.m. in the Carl Joseph Memorial Reading Commons on the fifth floor of Carlson Library.

In 20-minute presentations every half hour, speakers from the University and surrounding community will talk about censorship and the importance of personal reading.

“This event creates solidarity within the community while celebrating the right to read freely,” Dr. Paulette Kilmer, UT professor of communication, said.

This year a tribute to Stan Lee will recognize his efforts to end comic book censorship in 1971. He challenged the Comic Magazine Association of America’s restrictive code that was established in 1954.

In addition, Dr. David Tucker, UT professor of communication, will deliver the Dr. Linda Smith Lecture, “A Deck of Cards,” at 9:30 a.m.

Throughout the day, snacks and refreshments will be available, along with door prizes that include donated banned books and other goods.

Topics and speakers for the event will be:
•  9 a.m. — “Celebrating Reading” by Marcia King-Blandford, interim director of UT Libraries, and Dr. Jeffrey Wilkinson, UT professor and chair of communication;
•  9:30 a.m. — “The Dr. Linda Smith Lecture: ‘A Deck of Cards’” by Dr. David Tucker, UT professor of communication;
•  10:30 a.m. — “Censorship in Black: Hurston, Ellison and Baldwin” by LaVeille Ridley, UT Jesup Scott Honors College student;
•  11 a.m. — “The Dynamics of Expression in the Invisible Prison” by Dr. Renee Heberle, UT professor of political science;
•  11:30 a.m. — “A Ban Against Women’s Rights and Freedoms — A Historical Perspective” by Warren Woodberry, Toledo author;
•  Noon — “Avoiding the Echo Chamber: The Benefit of Dissenting Opinion” by Sarah Otney, managing editor of the Toledo Free Press;
•  12:30 p.m. — “President Obama’s Fave Novel: Censoring Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon” by Dr. Glenn Sheldon, UT professor of humanities and faculty member of the Jesup Scott Honors College;
•  1 p.m. — “Pinball, Peep Shows and Pulp Fiction: A Brief History of Censorship in Northwest Ohio” by Dr. Michael Brooks, Bowling Green State University professor of history and graduate coordinator;
•  1:30 p.m. — Screening of “Video Moments With Stan Lee and Living Action Heroes Inspired by Comic Books”;
•  2 p.m. — “Graphic and Explicit Content: The Censorship of Horror Video Games” by Torrie Jadlocki, UT communication student;
•  2:30 p.m. — “Jeopardy!” led by Amanda Eggert, editor in chief of The Independent Collegian, and Samantha Rhodes, managing editor of The Independent Collegian;
•  3 p.m. — “Those @#%$# Censors: What Are They Looking for?” by Arjun Sahbarwal, UT assistant professor of library administration;
•  3:30 p.m. — “You Can’t Read That!!!” by Cindy Ramirez, English teacher at Bedford Senior High School;
•  4 p.m. — “Filthy Words or Uplifting Story? The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Dr. Sharon Barnes, UT associate professor of women’s and gender studies; and
•  4:30 p.m. — “Moments From ‘Oh! Cabaret!’” by Irene Alby, UT associate lecture of theatre.

Sponsors who have contributed to this event include Ann Lumbrezer; Barnes & Noble University Bookstore; Barry’s Bagels; UT College of Communication and the Arts; The Independent Collegian; UT Jesup Scott Honors College; Kroger; Lamda Pi Eta (UT Communication Honor Society); New Sins Press; Phoenicia Cuisine; Toledo Free Press; Society for Professional Journalists; UT Center for Experiential Learning and Career Development; UT Federal Credit Union; UT General Libraries; UT Office of the Provost; UT Student Government; UT Toledo Friends of the Library Foundation; UT departments of Art, Communication, English Language and Literature, Foreign Languages, and Theatre and Film; UT offices of Dean of Students, Excellence and Multicultural Success, Greek Life, Marketing and Communications, and Student Involvement; and WXUT.

Dancehall day

A performance by El Corazon de Mexico last week in the Student Union Ingman Room helped kick off The University of Toledo’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. More events are scheduled through mid-October; go to utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/oemss.
Three UT students won gift cards for their striking shots submitted to the Ottawa River Photography Contest.

Alyssa Kihara placed first with “Blue Bridge.”

“Seining at the Bridge” by Aaron Svoboda was second, and “Magic Moment” by Francis Bradford took third place.

There were nearly 40 entries in this year’s contest.

The event was part of the Celebrate Our River Week and was sponsored by the President’s Commission on the River.
Engineering team wins inaugural unmanned aerial vehicle competition

By Kevin Bucher

The University of Toledo’s Smart Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for Exploration team took first place at the 2014 Autonomous Aerial Vehicle Competition. The competition was a national indoor unmanned aerial vehicle challenge held at the Ohio Unmanned Aerial Systems Conference Aug. 25 and 26 in Dayton.

The team was given the task of developing a quad rotor-based unmanned aerial vehicle — also called UAV — that was capable of navigating autonomously in an indoor environment filled with obstacles. In addition, the UAV was required to search and identify a specified target and transmit the target’s geographical location to a ground station.

Alireza Nemati, a doctoral student majoring in electrical engineering and computer sciences, led the team that consisted of undergraduate students Eric Schnipke and Steve Reidling, graduate students Mehdi Hashemi, Jisheng Li and Padmapriya Sampathkumar, and doctoral student Mohammad Sarim.

The team worked under the supervision of Dr. Manish Kumar, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.

“We initially thought the project was going to be easy, but it turned out to be more challenging that we originally anticipated,” Nemati said.

The team worked for close to six months on the design and construction of the UAV.

“This is a project that the students really got excited about. For close to a month, everyone on the team was pulling all-nighters,” Kumar said. “They put in a lot of hard work completing the project, and we are extremely proud of their accomplishment.”

While it was the first time the competition was held, the team expects to compete in the event again, Kumar said.

The award also comes with an $8,000 prize that will be used to participate in future competitions.

UT Engineering Fall Career Expo Sept. 24

The University of Toledo Engineering Career Development Center will host its Fall 2014 Engineering Career Expo Wednesday, Sept. 24.

More than 140 companies — a record number — are registered to attend the fall expo.

“Many companies from across the United States participate in this event,” Dr. Vickie Kuntz, director of the Engineering Career Development Center, said. “A few of the nationally recognized companies scheduled to participate include Dana Holding, Cooper Tire, CSX, First Energy, General Electric, General Mills, Honda, Johnson & Johnson/Depuy, JP Morgan, Kiewit Corp., Marathon, Owens Corning, Owens-Illinois and Whirlpool.”

More than 600 engineering students have attended past career expos, according to Kuntz, and she expects between 600 and 700 students and alumni to participate in this event.

She added the expo will be a great opportunity for students to meet with employers for networking and future employment.

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

The UT Engineering Fall 2014 Career Expo will be held in Nitschke Hall from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Students do not need to register prior to the event; there will be a student check-in area opening at 12:15 p.m. the day of the expo.
Interim UT President Nagi Naganathan welcomed 54 new American citizens at a naturalization ceremony held last week in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium. Priscilla Maduoma, a former resident of Nigeria, above left, smiled as she received her certificate of citizenship from Judge Mary Ann Whipple during the event.

In memoriam

Mary C. (Henneman) Carr, Swanton, a former cook who worked in the Student Union, died Sept. 14 at age 66.

Colleen E. (Duncan) Kajfasz, Toledo, a loan processor at the UT Federal Credit Union, died Sept. 16, at age 55. She worked at the credit union for more than 20 years.

Barbara (Brahier) McCauley, Toledo, died Sept. 15 at age 69. She established the library at Corpus Christi University Parish and served as its director for 10 years. McCauley also attended UT.
Celebrate Confucius Institute Day Sept. 27

By Cathy Zimmer

The Confucius Institute invites the UT campus and greater Toledo community to learn about Chinese culture at Confucius Institute Day Saturday, Sept. 27, from noon to 5 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

“The Confucius Institute at The University of Toledo is proud to join with more than 480 Confucius Institutes around the world to celebrate Confucius Institute Day on September 27. The day commemorates the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Confucius Institute program through Hanban in China. It is also a very special anniversary for us; here at UT, we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of our local Confucius Institute with a day full of entertainment and activities for people of all ages,” said Llew Gibbons, UT professor of law and chair of the UT Confucius Institute Board of Directors.

“We will feature a variety of activities from language lessons to hands-on art-making activities. We encourage the Toledo community to come out for this free event; it’s a great opportunity to learn about Chinese culture and meet new people in your community.”

The highlights of Confucius Institute Day will include opportunities to:

- Take a 20-minute lesson on how to say and write simple Chinese expressions and characters;
- Write Chinese calligraphy;
- Draw a Beijing opera mask;
- Decorate Chinese lanterns;
- Make a Chinese bracelet;
- Design Chinese paper cutting;
- Sculpt dough figurines;
- Play Chinese games; and
- Watch performances of Chinese song and dance.

There also will be a photo booth, tea arts display and Tao Bao bazaar.

The Confucius Institute at The University of Toledo serves northwest Ohio by providing education in Chinese language and culture, and supports the development of China-related scholarly research and academic programs. It also offers opportunities for cultural exchanges between China and the United States.

Learn more about the Confucius Institute Day by visiting http://utoledo.edu/confuciusinstituteday or contact Dawei Han at 419.530.8580.