Interim president calls on UT community to come together for ‘year of accomplishments’

By Jon Strunk

Interim President Nagi G. Naganathan called on The University of Toledo community to come together to tackle big challenges and elevate UT for faculty, students and staff as he spoke to a packed crowd of nearly 600 in Doermann Theater during the State of the University address Oct. 29.

“We want UT to be a source where big ideas are developed, to deliver big results. What better way to achieve this than by working together?” Naganathan said.

“Together, we can attract increasing numbers of well-prepared students, create pathways for all students to be successful, and attract world-class faculty who push the frontiers of their disciplines and who are prepared to tackle complex societal problems.

“Together, we can elevate the intellectual and cultural vibrancy of our city and the region, create a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, and foster an environment where diversity is celebrated.

Together, we can make a difference.”

In a speech highlighted by videos that featured some two dozen members of the campus and regional communities, Naganathan pointed to partnerships as key to UT accomplishing its goals and benefiting those constituents that count on the University.

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UTMC completes positive Joint Commission visit

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Medical Center completed months of intense preparation Friday as the Joint Commission, UTMC’s accrediting body, completed its site visit.

While the final report won’t be completed until late this year or early 2015, UTMC CEO Dave Morlock said he was incredibly proud of the way hospital staff and clinical faculty stepped up this week and all year.

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Hospital achieves highest honor for stroke patient care

By Aimee Portala

The University of Toledo Medical Center recently received the Get With the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Award from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

The Gold Plus Award provides evidence of commitment to quality patient care. The award is given for achieving at least 85 percent adherence to all Get With Guidelines-Stroke recommendations.

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University to honor veterans at annual event

By Samantha Watson

The University of Toledo will honor those who serve or have served our country, as well as their families, at the annual Veterans Day celebration Tuesday, Nov. 11.

The 10th annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast and Resource Fair will be held from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in Savage Arena, and is open to the public. The program will end with a remembrance ceremony at 11 a.m., with a bus available immediately following the ceremony for those who wish to visit UT’s Veterans Plaza.

“You have to remember,” said Vern Snyder, UT vice president for institutional advancement. “There’s always going to be war, but you have to remember your colleagues, your comrades and your friends, and the guy down the street that you didn’t know, who gave up everything.”

Opening remarks and invocation will be led by Snyder and Capt. Peter Drury of the U.S. Air Force, 180th Fighter Wing chaplain. Toledo News Now’s Jerry Anderson will serve as this year’s master of ceremonies, and the keynote speaker will be Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins.

“At the very minimum, [veterans have] sidestepped their life for two or three years,” said Snyder, who served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971. “Anybody who makes that commitment is worthy of respect and worthy of honor.”

Parking will be free and available in lots 3, 5 and 6. This year’s event is sponsored by The University of Toledo, American Red Cross of Northwest Ohio, Fifth Third Bank, Block Communications Inc., Lucas County Commissioners, and the Lucas County Veterans Service Commission.

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Open enrollment deadline Nov. 14; benefit meetings scheduled — see p. 8
‘Defining and Defending Our Waters’ topic of conference

By Rachel Phipps

Are we protecting our water resources, or are we engaging in regulatory overreach, threatening shipping, and stifling an energy boom? How do we prevent a recurrence of the crisis that deprived half a million Toledo-area residents and visitors of drinking water in August?

These questions will be among those addressed by panels of legal and scientific experts at the 14th annual Great Lakes Water Conference Friday, Nov. 7, in the Law Center.

The conference titled “Defining and Defending Our Waters” is sponsored by the UT College of Law and its affiliated Legal Institute of the Great Lakes.

Panel topics during the conference will be “Defining the Reach of the Clean Water Act,” “Open Lake Disposal of Harbor Sediments,” “Fracking Bans and State Pre-emption,” and “Algae and the Toledo Water Crisis.”

Gail Hesse, executive director of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, will be the keynote speaker.

“The annual Great Lakes Water Conferences consistently tackle topics at the cutting edge of law and policy,” said Kenneth Kilbert, director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes and associate dean for academic affairs. “Last year’s conference focused attention on harmful algal blooms before the crisis in Toledo this summer, and this year the topics are just as critical and timely.”

The conference is free to the public. Registration is $75 for Ohio attorneys seeking 5.5 hours of continuing legal education.

For more information and to register, visit http://utole.do/liglconferenceshtm.

UTMC

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“I am so proud of these people. These are people committed to the health of tens of thousands in this community, and they work so hard to provide the very best care available,” Morlock said. “We have a couple laundry list items to take care of, but as an organization, we’re in a really great place to keep raising the bar.”

“You should be proud to work here,” said Joint Commission surveyor Dr. William Lundberg during the exit conference Friday afternoon. “Northwest Ohio should be proud of the care delivered at UTMC.”

Marge McFadden, chief administrative officer for quality and patient safety, who has been leading much of UT’s Joint Commission preparation, said the entire visit was a very evaluative and consultative process. “Our staff were great at showing the evaluators what we do and, in turn, they gave us some great advice on ways we can improve,” McFadden said. “These visits are an important learning tool for any hospital, and we’re excited about changes and improvements we can make to advance health care at UTMC.”

McFadden said one area the Joint Commission was particularly impressed with centered on UTMC’s preparedness for Ebola Virus Disease.

“We demonstrated our procedures in the simulation center for them and they were very complimentary of our level of preparedness,” she said.

McFadden also said the evaluators praised the participation of so many physicians and the close consultations with UT Board of Trustee members, saying at many organizations, institutional leadership isn’t as involved as it has proven to be at the University and UTMC.

Dr. Christopher Cooper, dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and senior vice president for clinical affairs, reaffirmed how proud he was of the staff and physicians at UTMC. “Our faculty and staff provide high-quality and safe care, while educating the next generation of health-care professionals.

“We no longer view the Joint Commission visit as a test; we see it as a step in our journey to improve patient care,” Cooper said. “Once the Joint Commission leaves, we will continue on our journey to eliminate infections and improve care. We will implement any recommendations they have and keep pushing to get better all across the organization.”

UT to honor veterans

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GI Jobs magazine featured UT in its 2014 Military Friendly Schools list, recognizing the University for working with veteran-students to translate their military service experience to useable credits for their education.

In September, UT also opened a new Veteran’s Lounge, accessible to students who are using Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits, as well as their dependents and spouses.

The lounge, located in Rocket Hall Room 1529, has a refrigerator/ freezer, microwave, one-cup coffee maker, toaster, couches and a flat-screen TV with cable and Xbox game system, as well as two computer stations and a study table.

The lounge was made possible through donations from Whirlpool-Clyde Operations and the Ohio Army National Guard. Those interested in donating snacks, coffee and beverages for the lounge should contact Navy Reserve Lt. Haraz N. Ghanbari, UT military liaison, at haraz.ghanbari@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4137.

“The University of Toledo is a place where vets are honored, are respected, welcomed,” Snyder said. “If you are a vet, this is the place to be. People understand the sacrifices you make.”
International author/historian to speak at UT Nov. 5

By Lindsay Mahaney

K
nown for his hard-hitting journalism and prolific writing, noted historian and author Dr. Vijay Prashad will speak at the English Department’s 25th annual Richard M. Summers Memorial Lecture this week.

Prashad will give a presentation, “Letter From a Wound: The World We Live in Today,” Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in Libbey Hall. The free, public event will be followed by a reception, where he will sign books.

Prashad is the author of 16 books, including his most recent Poorer Nations: A Possible History of the Global South, in which he analyzes neoliberalism, the World Social Forum, the Latin American revolutionary revival, and alternatives to the neoliberal project.

“Most of the books he has written have been very influential,” said Dr. Parama Sarkar, UT assistant professor of English. “He has given us new ways to think about race and class, both within a U.S. and a global context. Plus, he is a really engaging speaker.”

Sarkar’s graduate seminar, Postcolonialism and the City, has been studying some of Prashad’s work, including his seminal The Karma of Brown Folk. According to Sarkar, it is important to provide adequate historical and social context when studying postcolonial literature, which she believes Prashad’s work does.

Currently, Prashad is working on two books, No Free Left: The Futures of Indian Communism and Dispatches From Greater Arabia, based on his reporting from Arabia in 2003 through 2014.

Prashad also writes for various online and print publications, including British newspaper The Guardian, political magazine Counterpunch and English-language Indian daily newspaper The Hindu. He is also a regular presence on the show “Democracy Now!”

In 2013-14, Prashad was the Edward Said Chair at the American University of Beirut. Currently, he is the George and Martha Kellner Chair in South Asian History and Professor of International Studies at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

“His writing deconstructs a lot of social and cultural myths that we hold dear,” Sarkar said. “He helps us go beyond the surface narrative and question our underlying assumptions about race and class. His incisive analysis might make the reader uncomfortable at times, but, ultimately helps us become critical thinkers.”

The Richard M. Summers Memorial Lecture is an annual event that honors thinkers.

As director of freshman English and as an adviser for both graduate and undergraduate students from 1966 until his death in 1988.

For more information, contact the English Department at 419.530.2318.
Rockets picked to win MAC West Division, MAC Tournament

By Steve Easton

Toledo has been selected to win the Mid-American Conference West Division as well as the 2015 MAC Tournament as part of the 2014-15 MAC Men’s Basketball Preseason Poll announced last week.

The Rockets garnered 18 votes to win the West Division and 15 votes to capture the MAC Tournament. The poll was determined by a 20-member MAC News Media Panel.

The Rockets’ slate is highlighted by three contests against 2014 NCAA Tournament squads — Duke, Oregon and VCU — as well as a two-day home tournament inside Savage Arena to complete its participation in the Legends Classic. UT will then host a two-game tournament inside Savage Arena to complete its participation in the Legends event. UT will open tourney play vs. Bucknell Nov. 24 before facing either Detroit or Maryland-Eastern Shore Nov. 25.

Toledo will then make a short trip north over Thanksgiving weekend to battle Horizon League foe Oakland Nov. 29 before beginning a season-long three-game home stand. UT will entertain Chicago State Dec. 6, Arkansas State Dec. 13 and Robert Morris Dec. 17 on its home floor before closing out the calendar year at McNeese State Dec. 20 and at Duke Dec. 29.

The Rockets will receive their final tune-up before Mid-American Conference action with a visit to Highland Heights, Ky., to face Northern Kentucky Jan. 3.

“I’m very pleased with our schedule and the challenges it’s going to provide for us,” Toledo Head Coach Tod Kowalczyk said. “We’re going to be facing three high-level teams in Duke, Oregon and VCU, in addition to several strong mid-major programs. We’ll have a veteran squad back, and I believe we’re ready to take on a schedule of this caliber.”

Toledo set a school record with 27 victories in its 2013-14 campaign, in addition to capturing its eighth Mid-American Conference title, appearing in its eighth National Invitation Tournament in program history, and posting its first unbeaten (15-0) home record (fourth in school history) since the 1966-67 season.

The Rockets return eight letterwinners and four starters, including first-team All-MAC guard Julius Brown, third-team All-MAC guard Justin Drummond and honorable mention All-MAC forward J.D. Weatherspoon.

Toledo’s 18-game MAC schedule opens with a pair of home dates vs. Central Michigan (Jan. 6) and Akron (Jan. 9). As part of its league slate, the Rockets will face each Western Division foe as well as Akron and Kent State on two occasions, and the remainder of the East Division squads once each.

UT’s remaining home dates are against Western Michigan (Jan. 17), Bowling Green (Jan. 24), Miami (Jan. 27), Eastern Michigan (Feb. 4), Kent State (Feb. 14), Northern Illinois (Feb. 24) and Ball State (Feb. 28).

The first round of the 2014 MAC Tournament will begin on campus sites March 9 with the remainder of the tourney being held at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.
Toledo to participate in three tournaments this season

By Brian D'Agostino

The women’s basketball team will be put to the test during three pre-league tournaments, as two opponents qualified for the 2014 NCAA Tournament.

“This is a challenging non-league schedule, but one we are excited to embrace,” said Head Coach Tricia Cullop, who sits fourth in Mid-American Conference history in league win percentage (74-24, .755) and overall (141-60, .701) win percentage.

Toledo will square off against three teams that participated in the Big Dance and one that advanced to the WNIT prior to beginning Mid-American Conference play.

The Midnight Blue and Gold will take part in the Florida International Tournament Dec. 6-8, as well as 2014 WNIT participant Bowling Green (30-5, 17-1 MAC).

The returners have played their final game in the friendly confines.”

Spearheading the group of returnees will be senior Inma Zanoguera and junior Ana Capotosto. The returning starters have played their final game in the friendly confines.

Cullop said, “A lot of key players graduated, so there’s a great opportunity in front of us.”

The Rockets will look to reclaim their perch atop the MAC in 2014-15. UT was decimated by injuries throughout the 2013-14 campaign and limped to a 16-16 overall mark, 9-9 in the league. Despite all the bumps and bruises, UT tied for second place in the MAC West Division standings.

“Our goal each year is to win the league championship,” Cullop said. “That doesn’t change from year to year. With that being said, this team is not ready for that right now. It’s going to be a process, but I’m excited about going through it with this group. I do think we can challenge for the championship if we continue to improve every day.”

UT’s roster in 2014-15 will consist of seven returning letterwinners, including two starters, and seven newcomers.

The Rockets will battle Virginia (14-17, 6-10 ACC) and possibly the host Panthers (15-18, 6-10 Sun Belt) or Arizona (5-25, 1-17 Pac-12) at the Florida tournament.

A couple weeks later, Toledo will entertain Southeast Missouri State (10-19, 6-10 OVC) and 2014 NCAA Tournament participant Idaho (25-9, 15-1 WAC) as part of the classic. Former Rocket Kristi Zeller (2005-10) is an assistant coach for the Vandals.

Detroit (6-24, 3-13 Horizon) is the other team competing in the tournament.

Immediately following the classic, UT will compete against Nevada (18-13, 12-6 WAC) and Southern Illinois (5-25, 3-15 MVC) in the Big Easy.

After holding an exhibition game in early November, UT’s season officially tips off Nov. 14 at Cleveland State (14-16, 9-7 Horizon League).

Less than one week later, the Rockets will square off against 2014 WNIT participant St. Bonaventure (24-11, 11-5 A-10) Nov. 20 in their home opener. A year ago, UT overcame a 10-point deficit in the final 10 minutes to post a thrilling two-point road triumph in Olean, N.Y.

Toledo will then travel to 2014 NCAA Tournament qualifier Purdue (22-9, 11-5 Big Ten) Nov. 23 before heading to the Sunshine State for the Florida tourney.

Following the tournament, Toledo will remain on the road and play at 2014 NCAA Tournament participant Dayton (23-8, 14-2 A-10) Dec. 10.

UT will then return home to host the third-annual Glass City Classic. The Rockets won the inaugural event two years ago, before Villanova captured the title last season.

After the classic, Toledo will venture back to the road for the New Orleans Shootout before wrapping up non-league play against NCAA Division II member UW-Parkside (8-18, 4-14 GLVS) Dec. 30 at home.

Cullop and the Rockets then will turn their focus to the MAC slate, where they will engage in 18 games for a second straight season. UT will get things started Jan. 3 versus Miami (8-22, 4-14 MAC). Three of Toledo’s first four MAC games will take place at home.

“There’s no hiding we have a young team,” Cullop said. “It’s a blessing to know we can break them into MAC play in front of friendly confines.”

Toledo will play two games against each of the five other MAC West Division schools as well as 2014 MAC Tournament Champion Akron (23-10, 14-4 MAC) and Buffalo (17-13, 10-8 MAC) from the East Division throughout the regular season. UT also will face the remaining East Division teams once, with Kent State (7-23, 4-14 MAC) visiting the Glass City, and the Rockets traveling to Ohio (9-21, 4-14 MAC) and archival 2014 WNIT participant Bowling Green (30-5, 17-1 MAC).

“For the first time in several years, I see the MAC being a wide-open race,” Cullop said. “A lot of key players graduated, so there’s a great opportunity in front of us.”

The Rockets will look to reclaim their perch atop the MAC in 2014-15. UT was decimated by injuries throughout the 2013-14 campaign and limped to a 16-16 overall mark, 9-9 in the league. Despite all the bumps and bruises, UT tied for second place in the MAC West Division standings.

“Our goal each year is to win the league championship,” Cullop said. “That doesn’t change from year to year. With that being said, this team is not ready for that right now. It’s going to be a process, but I’m excited about going through it with this group. I do think we can challenge for the championship if we continue to improve every day.”

UT’s roster in 2014-15 will consist of seven returning letterwinners, including two starters, and seven newcomers.

Spearheading the group of returnees will be senior Inma Zanoguera and junior Ana Capotosto. The returning starters have played key roles, and their leadership will be an important factor for the young team.

2014-15 TOLEDO WOMEN’S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Day  Date  Opponent  Location  Time
Sat. Dec. 20  Ferris State  (EXH.)  Savage Arena  Noon
Fri. Dec. 29  at Akron  Akron, OH  7 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 3  at Northern Kentucky  Highland Heights, KY  4 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 29  at Duke (ESPN2)  Durham, NC  7 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 20  at McNeese State  Broussard, LA  2 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 6  at Chicago State  Savage Arena  2 p.m.
Wed. Dec. 3  at Cleveland State  Cleveland, OH  7 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 29  at Oakland  Rochester, MI  7 p.m.
Mon. Nov. 24  Legends Classic  Savage Arena
Tues. Nov. 25  Legends Classic  Savage Arena
Sun. Nov. 16  at Northern Arizona  Savage Arena  2 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 28  at Ball State  Muncie, IN  TBA
Sat. Nov. 8  Ferris State  (EXH.)  Savage Arena  Noon
Fri. Mar. 6  at Eastern Michigan  Ypsilanti, MI  TBA
Tues. Mar. 3  at Central Michigan  Mount Pleasant, MI  TBA
Wed. Feb. 18  at Northern Illinois  Kalamazoo, MI  7 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 14  at Akron  Akron, OH  TBA
Tues. Feb. 10  at Buffalo  Buffalo, NY  TBA
Wed. Feb. 11  at Central Michigan  Saginaw, MI  TBA
Sat. Feb. 7  at Ball State  Muncie, IN  7 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 25  at Western Michigan  Kalamazoo, MI  7 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 18  at Akron  Akron, OH  7 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 14  at Kent State  Kent, OH  TBA
Wed. Feb. 10  at Buffalo  Buffalo, NY  TBA
Sat. Jan. 17  at Western Michigan  Kalamazoo, MI  TBA
Tues. Jan. 13  Buffalo  Savage Arena  TBA
Sat. Jan. 26  Eastern Michigan  Savage Arena  TBA
Sat. Jan. 19  at Bowling Green  Bowling Green, OH  TBA
Wed. Jan. 15  at Buffalo  Buffalo, NY  TBA
Sat. Jan. 12  at Detroit  Detroit, MI  TBA
Wed. Jan. 8  at Idaho  Moscow, ID  TBA
Sat. Jan. 5  at Minnesota  Minneapolis, MN  7 p.m.
Wed. Jan. 7  at Kent State  Kent, OH  TBA
Sat. Jan. 10  at Ohio  Athens, OH  TBA
Wed. Jan. 16  at Akron  Akron, OH  TBA
Sat. Jan. 17  at Northern Kentucky  Highland Heights, KY  4 p.m.
Tues. Jan. 13  Buffalo  Savage Arena  TBA
Sat. Jan. 24  Detroit  Savage Arena  TBA
Sat. Jan. 21  at Northern Illinois  DeKalb, IL  TBA
Mon. March 7  at Ohio State  Columbus, OH  TBA
Wed. March 12  at Central Michigan  Mount Pleasant, MI  TBA
Register for stroke update conference

By Cassandra DeYoung

Join The University of Toledo and ProMedica faculty at the 2014 Stroke Update Seminar Friday, Nov. 14, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg.

Participants will have the opportunity to hear guest faculty from the University of Pittsburgh, Henry Ford Hospital, University of Michigan and St. Joseph Mercy Oakland.

Topics will include a stroke network update, the future of international stroke therapy and of carotid stenting, structural heart defects and stroke, and the management of intracranial aneurysms.

All attendees can register online until Friday, Nov. 7, or register at the door on the day of the program. Fees range from $50 for health-care professionals to $15 for students and residents. A printed syllabus will be offered for $10 or can be downloaded at no cost from cme.utoledo.edu starting Nov. 7.

To register, visit cme.utoledo.edu. Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register early.

For more information about the event, visit cme.utoledo.edu or contact the UT Center for Continuing Medical Education at 419.383.4237.

2014 STROKE UPDATE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014
7:30AM - 5:00PM

LOCATION:
HILTON GARDEN INN
6165 LEVIS COMMONS BLVD,
PERRYSBURG, OH 43551

SUPPORTED BY:
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND LIFE SCIENCES
AND PROMEDICA HEALTH SYSTEM, TOLEDO HOSPITAL

Harvard professor of medicine to visit UT

By Kevin Bucher

The College of Medicine Research Advisory Council will host Dr. John Mekalanos, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, as well as chair of the Microbiology and Immunobiology Department at Harvard Medical School, as part of the University Distinguished Lecture Series.

The event will take place Thursday, Nov. 6, on Health Science Campus. There will be a reception at 3 p.m., and the lecture will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 110.

Mekalanos will deliver a lecture titled “Understanding Bacterial Secretion Machines Through Defining Their Effector Functions.”

He has spent more than three decades studying bacterial pathogenesis. His research has uncovered the importance of accessory genetic elements in the evolutionary emergence of bacterial pathogens.

In 2006, his group discovered the function of the Type VI secretion system in several human pathogens and has rapidly defined genetic, regulatory, cell biological, biochemical, pathobiological and structural aspects of these dynamic organelles.

Mekalanos is known worldwide as the leader in bacterial pathogenesis and has received many awards and honors. Most notably, in 1998, he was elected to serve as a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

For more information about this free, public event, contact Traci McDaniel at traci.mcdaniel@utoledo.edu.

Research and development leader to address UT students Nov. 4

By Aimee Portala

Dr. Jaume Pons, chief scientific officer and senior vice president of Rinat, a research and development division of Pfizer, will speak to students interested in a career in the bioscience industry.

Pons will speak at the Stroke Update Seminar at the University of Toledo Nov. 14 and present a lecture titled “Understanding Bacterial Secretion Machines Through Defining Their Effector Functions.”

The event, presented by the Graduate Student Association and the Department of Biological Sciences, will take place Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 10 a.m. in Student Union Room 2582. All are welcome.

Rinat, located in San Francisco, is the biotechnology unit of Pfizer, one of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies. Pons is responsible for portfolio delivery from idea to clinical development.

He also serves as chief technology officer, focusing on antibody technologies, and is a member of the Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development leadership team. Pons previously created and led Rinat’s protein engineering group and has invented several antibodies that are now in late-stage clinical development.

Under his leadership, Rinat continues to advance Pfizer’s growing capabilities in generating therapeutic antibodies.

Pons earned his PhD in molecular and cell biology at the Institute on Fundamental Biology in Barcelona, Spain, and his bachelor of science degree in biochemistry from Autonoma University of Barcelona. He conducted his postdoctoral studies in antibody engineering at the University of California at Berkeley.

Students interested in meeting Pons in a smaller group session may contact Jeff Zahratka at jeffrey.zahratka@rockets.utoledo.edu. This is a first-come, first-served opportunity.

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Interim president

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Naganathan spotlighted several institution-wide initiatives — established following a meeting with faculty, staff and student leaders — that his administration was working to implement in the coming year.

“I firmly believe, while my title is interim, my responsibilities are not,” he said, emphasizing the University would not sit idle during this year of interim leadership.

Among the initiatives highlighted were an ongoing focus on recruitment and retention, a faculty hiring plan, a reinvestment in the University’s academic core, a focus on UT research, and a commitment to transforming the medical enterprise to meet the changing industry realities in health care.

The interim president got a laugh when he introduced his goal for student recruitment for next fall by referencing one of his favorite phrases. “If you aren’t living on the edge, you’re taking up entirely too much space,” Naganathan quipped, as he announced the goal of enrolling and retaining 400 additional students.

In his speech, Naganathan also addressed UT’s response to the August water crisis, the institution’s role in economic development, and the University’s commitment to a safe campus, including plans to ensure its sexual assault policies and procedures “meet and exceed the recommendations and requirements of the White House Task Force on Sexual Assault.”

The interim president continued from p. 1
Deadline for open enrollment approaching

Open enrollment for 2015 benefits will end Friday, Nov. 14.

Human Resources and Talent Development is requesting that all benefit-eligible employees complete the online open enrollment process. Go to http://utoledo.do/benefits.

Two additional benefit meetings have been added to provide information on health-care plans as well as to give employees an opportunity to ask questions. These are scheduled for:
- Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Health Education Building Room 105 on Health Science Campus;
- Thursday, Nov. 6, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Student Recreation Center on Main Campus.

Please note that the domestic partner eligibility requirements have been streamlined:
- The length of time for the relationship has been reduced from 12 months to six months.
- The residency documentation is now optional.
- An updated affidavit of domestic partnership is available on the HR benefits website at utoledo.edu/depts/hr.

Computers are available for employee access in HR offices in the Facilities Support Building on Health Science Campus and in Academic Services Center Suite 1000 on Scott Park Campus Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Employees who require assistance or are unsure if they need to complete the process are encouraged to email benefits@utoledo.edu or contact a benefits representative at 419.530.4747.

Wanted: Submissions for International Education Week Photo Contest

By Cathy Zimmer

The UT community is invited to celebrate International Education Week by entering a photo contest. Photos captured overseas or domestic photos of international events will be accepted.

There will be a category for students and a category for faculty and staff.

Photos must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10.

“We believe the international photo contest is a great way to engage the UT community in International Education Week and highlight our students’ and colleagues’ international experiences,” said Michelle Ploeger, international education specialist and coordinator of International Education Week.

“Submitting a photo is easy; just email a high-quality photo to eduabroad@utoledo.edu. Note in the subject line ‘International Education Week Photo Contest.’ Attach your photo and provide your name, college/department, location and date photo was taken. Students should also share their major and expected graduation year.

“Submitted photos will be displayed in the Student Union Tom Trimble Lounge from November 12 through November 21. The campus community is encouraged to submit a vote for favorite student and/or faculty or staff photo,” Ploeger added. “Ballots can be picked up and submitted in the Student Union Ask Rocky Info Desk, Room 2525A.”

Winners will receive movie tickets for two.

For more information and details on how to submit photos, visit utoledo.edu/cisp/iew.

Hospital

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the Guidelines-Stroke performance achievement indicators and at least 75 percent compliance with a minimum of five Get With the Guidelines-Stroke quality measures.

“The Gold Plus Award is a testament to UTMC’s dedication to the guideline-based treatment of stroke patients. As a recipient of the highest award that the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association bestows upon a hospital, UTMC is part of an elite list,” said Abigail Loechler, director of quality and systems improvement for the associations. “This award is not only a celebration for the hospital, but for the patients who are receiving such excellent care, resulting in a higher quality of life.”

Silver, Gold, Silver Plus and Gold Plus award-winning hospitals are honored at national events during the International Stroke Conference. UTMC is the only hospital in northwest Ohio to have achieved the Gold Plus level.