UT increases fall enrollment, reversing 5-year trend

By Meghan Cunningham

The number of students taking classes at The University of Toledo in the fall semester increased by 267 students, marking the first enrollment gain in six years.

Total enrollment for fall semester is 20,648, according to official 15-day census numbers. UT had 20,381 students enrolled in fall semester 2015.

Along with adding students who came directly from high school or transferred from other institutions, the University also increased by 2.2 percent the first-year to second-year undergraduate retention rate.

“We are thrilled with the increase in enrollment,” President Sharon L. Gaber said. “UT provides an excellent education, and we are proud to offer that experience to more students. We have now reversed the previous declining trend and look forward to continuing a positive momentum moving forward.”

This is the third year that UT has experienced an increase in its retention rate. As part of the University’s efforts to retain and graduate more students, Dr. Brian Ashburner was named recently to the new position of vice provost for retention and undergraduate studies. He is responsible for coordinating the many programs UT offers to its students to ensure their success.

The fall 2016 enrollment includes an increase in both undergraduate and graduate students. There are 16,247 undergraduate students currently enrolled, an increase from 16,068 this time last year. There are 4,401 graduate and professional students, an increase from 4,313 in fall 2015.

Significantly, the fall 2016 enrollment is not only higher than fall 2015, it is also higher than the 20,626 students enrolled in fall 2014.

The Division of Enrollment Management, led by Interim Vice President Stephanie Sanders, continues to work with consultant Ruffalo Noel Levitz on a strategic enrollment plan to develop long-term strategies to position the University for continued growth.

UT student attempts to launch first Toledo-based Spanish radio station

By Sanya Ali

A University of Toledo communications student is on her way to changing the airwaves for Latino listeners.

Linda Parra started her Spanish-language radio show, “Nuestra Gente,” in 2005 with the goal of connecting with the Latino community of the city.

Parra’s objective for 2016 is to take her mission a step further by launching a station called WVZC-LP, 96.5 FM. The station, to be broadcast fully in Spanish, will showcase music, local and state news programming, and talk shows.

“We started the radio show as a community program — serving the community, informing members about the different programs and organizations — and it was very successful,” Parra said.

In 2008, Parra launched a nonprofit with the same name as her radio show to further community outreach. Nuestra Gente Community Projects Inc. looks to provide a combination of health and community-based programs, including education, social services, and health and safety awareness to residents, migrant workers and their families.

“Doing nonprofit work is more about community, it’s more about social work, and more about serving. I get connected with the community,” Parra said. “There is a lot of need for our community, especially in terms of translation and transportation. People don’t know where to go when they need appointments, they don’t have translation. So we provide those services through the organization. I like to provide a service.”

Parra said a few years ago, she and the team at Nuestra Gente Community Projects helped a Mexican senior at risk for stroke realize his extremely high blood pressure and make it to the ER before he suffered further complications. This experience proved to Parra the importance of the health screenings provided by her organization.

One of the greatest challenges to the establishment of the new station is funding for equipment. Parra needs $40,000 to put together the broadcasts; events will be held until she has the total amount. After receiving an extension on her permit, Parra has until next summer to raise the money.

“It’s not something that you learn, it’s something that you have inside you, that passion to serve, to be there for others,” Parra said.

Following her graduation in December, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in public health to further qualify her work with the nonprofit.

While working with Nuestra Gente, fundraising for the station and the radio show take up much of her time, but Parra still appreciates her life as a full-time student.

“There’s a lot of diversity going on campus,” Parra said. “I like the different faces you see, the different colors; you hear different languages, and it’s a really nice environment. Most of the people are young, so they give me more energy. I say, ‘I wish that I could be 20 again!’”

For more information on Nuestra Gente, visit muestragentecommunityprojects.org.

ROCKETING NUMBERS: Total enrollment for fall semester is 20,648, according to official 15-day census numbers. That’s an increase of 267 more students taking classes from last year.

UT student attempts to launch first Toledo-based Spanish radio station

By Sanya Ali

A University of Toledo communications student is on her way to changing the airwaves for Latino listeners.

Linda Parra started her Spanish-language radio show, “Nuestra Gente,” in 2005 with the goal of connecting with the Latino community of the city.

Parra’s objective for 2016 is to take her mission a step further by launching a station called WVZC-LP, 96.5 FM. The station, to be broadcast fully in Spanish, will showcase music, local and state news programming, and talk shows.

“We started the radio show as a community program — serving the community, informing members about the different programs and organizations — and it was very successful,” Parra said.

In 2008, Parra launched a nonprofit with the same name as her radio show to further community outreach. Nuestra Gente Community Projects Inc. looks to provide a combination of health and community-based programs, including education, social services, and health and safety awareness to residents, migrant workers and their families.

“Doing nonprofit work is more about community, it’s more about social work, and more about serving. I get connected with the community,” Parra said. “There is a lot of need for our community, especially in terms of translation and transportation. People don’t know where to go when they need appointments, they don’t have translation. So we provide those services through the organization. I like to provide a service.”

Parra said a few years ago, she and the team at Nuestra Gente Community Projects helped a Mexican senior at risk for stroke realize his extremely high blood pressure and make it to the ER before he suffered further complications. This experience proved to Parra the importance of the health screenings provided by her organization.

One of the greatest challenges to the establishment of the new station is funding for equipment. Parra needs $40,000 to put together the broadcasts; events will be held until she has the total amount. After receiving an extension on her permit, Parra has until next summer to raise the money.

“It’s not something that you learn, it’s something that you have inside you, that passion to serve, to be there for others,” Parra said.

Following her graduation in December, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in public health to further qualify her work with the nonprofit.

While working with Nuestra Gente, fundraising for the station and the radio show take up much of her time, but Parra still appreciates her life as a full-time student.

“There’s a lot of diversity going on campus,” Parra said. “I like the different faces you see, the different colors; you hear different languages, and it’s a really nice environment. Most of the people are young, so they give me more energy. I say, ‘I wish that I could be 20 again!’”

For more information on Nuestra Gente, visit muestragentecommunityprojects.org.

UT student attempts to launch first Toledo-based Spanish radio station

By Sanya Ali

A University of Toledo communications student is on her way to changing the airwaves for Latino listeners.

Linda Parra started her Spanish-language radio show, “Nuestra Gente,” in 2005 with the goal of connecting with the Latino community of the city.

Parra’s objective for 2016 is to take her mission a step further by launching a station called WVZC-LP, 96.5 FM. The station, to be broadcast fully in Spanish, will showcase music, local and state news programming, and talk shows.

“We started the radio show as a community program — serving the community, informing members about the different programs and organizations — and it was very successful,” Parra said.

In 2008, Parra launched a nonprofit with the same name as her radio show to further community outreach. Nuestra Gente Community Projects Inc. looks to provide a combination of health and community-based programs, including education, social services, and health and safety awareness to residents, migrant workers and their families.

“Doing nonprofit work is more about community, it’s more about social work, and more about serving. I get connected with the community,” Parra said. “There is a lot of need for our community, especially in terms of translation and transportation. People don’t know where to go when they need appointments, they don’t have translation. So we provide those services through the organization. I like to provide a service.”

Parra said a few years ago, she and the team at Nuestra Gente Community Projects helped a Mexican senior at risk for stroke realize his extremely high blood pressure and make it to the ER before he suffered further complications. This experience proved to Parra the importance of the health screenings provided by her organization.

One of the greatest challenges to the establishment of the new station is funding for equipment. Parra needs $40,000 to put together the broadcasts; events will be held until she has the total amount. After receiving an extension on her permit, Parra has until next summer to raise the money.

“It’s not something that you learn, it’s something that you have inside you, that passion to serve, to be there for others,” Parra said.

Following her graduation in December, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in public health to further qualify her work with the nonprofit.

While working with Nuestra Gente, fundraising for the station and the radio show take up much of her time, but Parra still appreciates her life as a full-time student.

“There’s a lot of diversity going on campus,” Parra said. “I like the different faces you see, the different colors; you hear different languages, and it’s a really nice environment. Most of the people are young, so they give me more energy. I say, ‘I wish that I could be 20 again!’”

For more information on Nuestra Gente, visit muestragentecommunityprojects.org.
Legal philosopher to give Stranahan Lecture Sept. 20

By Kirsten M. Winek

Dr. John M. Finnis, professor emeritus at the University of Oxford and Bielchini Family Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame, will deliver this fall’s Stranahan Lecture titled, “A Conversation With Professor John Finnis.”

The conversation will take place Tuesday, Sept. 20, at noon in The University of Toledo Law Center McQuade Auditorium. “John Finnis is the greatest living natural law theorist in the world. He is widely considered the person most responsible for reviving interest in natural law with his path-breaking book, Natural Law and Natural Rights (1980),” said Lee J. Strang, the John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values at the UT College of Law.

During the conversation, Finnis will explain natural law and some of its important implications. The lecture format will encourage audience members to ask questions and engage with the professor. “Finnis’ lecture is sure to spark thought and conversation on this important topic,” Strang said.

A prolific scholar, Finnis has authored and edited numerous books and written dozens of articles and essays. Recently, he was honored when Oxford University Press published his collected works in a five-volume series. Finnis’ publications have focused on law, legal theory, moral and political philosophy, theology, and late Elizabethan-era history.

Finnis earned a bachelor of laws from Adelaide University in Australia and doctorate from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. Until 2010, he held positions of lecturer, reader and chaired professor in law at Oxford. He also has held positions at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Malawi in Africa, and Boston College of Law. He is admitted to the English Bar, Gray’s Inn.

The free, public lecture is a part of the Stranahan National Issues Forum and is sponsored by the UT College of Law and Public Policy Studies. Food and drink will be provided.

World famous cricket player coming to UT Sept. 17

By Christine Long

International cricket player Dwayne Bravo will visit The University of Toledo Saturday, Sept. 17.

Bravo is an all-rounder for the West Indies and runner-up for the 2015 ESPY Award for best play, will be bowling between the wickets with UT students in the annual cricket tournament organized by the Indian Students Cultural Organization.

The tournament will be on the baseball fields at Stranahan Elementary School, located at 3840 N. Holland Sylvania Road. However, if it rains Friday, Saturday’s tournament will be at Dorr Elementary School’s baseball field at 1205 King Road.

Bravo, an all-rounder for the West Indies and runner-up for the 2015 ESPY Award for best play, will be bowling between the wickets with UT students in the annual cricket tournament organized by the Indian Students Cultural Organization. The Trinidad native also will hold a meet-and-greet from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday in the Student Union Auditorium. Tickets cost $10 for students and $15 for the public. The first 200 ticket buyers also will be able to take a photo with the athlete.

“this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Tracey Hidalgo, regulatory coordinator in the UT Office of International Student and Scholar Services, who also is from Trinidad. “Cricket is wildly popular overseas. Americans grow up with football and baseball. For us in the Caribbean, it’s a cricket culture.”

In addition to helping our international students feel more at home here in Toledo through this fun experience with a famous cricketer, we’re also excited to introduce American students to the game,” said Diane Engbretson, assistant director of the UT Center for International Studies and Programs. “They’ll learn about the love of cricket around the world.”

Tickets for the meet-and-greet with Bravo are available at Ask Rocky in Student Union Room 2525.

For more information, contact the Center for International Studies and Programs at 419.530.5268.

In memoriam

John K. Clement, Toledo, died Sept. 4 at age 101. He and his wife, Dorothy, established the Clement Gallery at the Center for the Visual Arts in honor of their daughter, Susanna, who died in 1988.

Dr. Thomas O. Karst, Port Clinton, professor emeritus of psychiatry, died Sept. 4 at age 78. He joined the MCO faculty in 1973 and retired in 1993. He worked with local businessman Marvin Kobacker whose family donated funds for the Kobacker Center, which serves children and teens with emotional troubles. Karst and other MCO colleagues also helped develop a therapeutic community for adults that became Bittersweet Farms.

Dr. Maureen M. McCorquodale, Winfield, Ill., associate professor of pediatrics from 1975 to 1989, died Sept. 3 at age 69. While at MCO, she directed laboratories and published research on prenatal diagnosis, medical genetics and biochemistry.
Grant writing workshop to help faculty members seeking research funding

By Carly Wiegand

The University of Toledo Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is hosting several writing workshops for faculty members seeking research funding.

The office provides research administration and support to UT faculty, staff and students involved in sponsored-research and scholarly activities.

This semester, one workshop will be offered four times. The workshop will demonstrate the funding opportunity search engine used by the University, and it will provide a tutorial on successful approaches to seeking funds for research projects small and large. Participants also will learn how to work with the grants and compliance offices to facilitate the process and use their time more effectively.

“These workshops are being held in response to surveys that were distributed after the spring workshops,” Marcie Ferguson, project manager in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, said. “Respondents wanted sessions on finding funding, grant writing, and working with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and compliance.”

New interim leaders announced in medical operations at UTMC

By Rebecca Schwan

Two University of Toledo Health physicians have been named to new interim leadership roles.

Dr. Linda Speer has been named interim chief medical officer, and Dr. Samay Jain now serves as interim associate chief medical officer.

Board-certified in family medicine, Speer has served as the chair of the Department of Family Medicine since 2006. She also is the compliance officer for the UT Physicians group.

Dr. Rick Francis, director of research and sponsored programs, said, “Faculty members are not always aware of the tools at their disposal, such as InfoEd SPIN, a subscription funding opportunity database for faculty, staff and students. We want to ensure all researchers and scholars are cognizant of the resources available from a wide variety of offices on campus to make the most of the research portion of their career here.”

The Main Campus workshops will be held Friday, Sept. 16, and Friday, Nov. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Student Union Room 2591.

The Health Science Campus workshops will be held Friday, Sept. 30, and Friday, Oct. 14, in Health Education Building Room 103 from 2 o 4 p.m.

To RSVP, email Ferguson at marcie.ferguson@utoledo.edu.

For more information regarding the workshops, go to utoledo.edu/research/grantwritingatut.html.

Dr. Speer’s experience in clinical care, faculty leadership, compliance oversight, and her training with the Vanderbilt Patient Advocacy Reporting System provides a solid foundation for her transition into the CMO role,” said Dan Barbee, vice president for clinical services and chief operating officer.

Speer completed her residency in family medicine at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Mich., and her fellowship in primary care faculty development at Michigan State University.

As chief medical officer, Speer provides medical oversight, expertise and leadership to UT Health physicians and manages the central verification system required for personnel. She will be supported by Jain, assistant professor of urology and vice chief of staff.

Jain is board-certified in urology and serves as the medical director of the Urology Clinic and chair for the Value Analysis Committee. He recently served as the interim chair of the Department of Urology.

“We are pleased that Dr. Jain has accepted this position. He has extensive experience in team building, conflict resolution and enacting the institutional vision,” Speer said. “He also is a messenger for the Vanderbilt Patient Advocacy Reporting System, providing a concrete foundation for this role.”

Jain completed his residency in urology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He completed a fellowship with Hackensack University Medical Center and Endourological Society, and a laparoscopic, endoscopic and robotic oncology fellowship.

Both will continue to see patients in their practices and continue existing administrative roles, with Speer remaining chair of family medicine, and Jain continuing to serve as vice chief of staff.
UT grad student honored for identifying how climate change threatens food quality

By Christine Long

A graduate student at The University of Toledo recently won an award from the Ecological Society of America for his study that shows why the combination of high carbon dioxide levels in the air and chronic global warming will contribute to a decrease in crop production and food quality during the next few decades.

“We have provided a better understanding of what scientists need to do to improve the heat tolerance of crops in the future,” said Dileepa Jayawardena, a PhD student in the Department of Environmental Sciences, who conducted the climate change study as a project for his master’s degree. “They can use this information to generate new climate-change-tolerant crops to help feed the growing human population.”

Using tomato as a model, Jayawardena investigated the way plants absorb nitrogen fertilizer from the soil.

Over the course of 18 days inside controlled growth chambers in Bowman-Oddy Laboratories, the plants were subjected to conditions that mimic future climate by Jayawardena’s team. Individually, elevated carbon dioxide and warming did not have large effects on tomato responses.

However, when combined, researchers saw a large decrease in the uptake rate of soil nitrate and ammonium through the roots. At the same time, researchers saw a significant drop in the concentration and function of the proteins that roots use to acquire soil nitrogen. The result was a crop with lower nitrogen levels and thus lower nutritional value.

Jayawardena’s work also shows that the combination of heat and carbon dioxide is bad for the plant in terms of being able to convert inorganic nitrogen, like nitrate and ammonium, into organic form, like protein, which is the form of nitrogen that humans require.

“If climate change intensifies, this impact on plant nitrogen concentration means that plants will not grow as big in the future, and they will be poorer-quality food for people and other animals that eat plants,” he said.

Jayawardena won the New Phytologist Poster Award for his presentation at the Ecological Society of America annual meeting last month in Florida. It is the nation’s largest organization of professional ecologists with a membership of more than 10,000 scientists.

“By itself, increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels tend to increase plant growth, which is a positive,” said Dr. Scott Heckathorn, UT ecology professor and Jayawardena’s faculty advisor. “However, increasing carbon dioxide is the primary cause of current global warming, which will increase heat stress for much life on the planet. The question then arises as to whether benefits of elevated carbon dioxide will offset the negative effects of increasing heat stress. What is new about Dileepa’s work is that it provides a mechanism for why the combination of elevated carbon dioxide and heat is detrimental.”

The research was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Patent approved for new spine testing device developed by UT bioengineer

By Rebecca Schnau

A University of Toledo research professor received a patent for a new device designed to assist with fine-tuning spinal surgeries.

Dr. Vijay Goel, professor of bioengineering and co-director of the Engineering Center for Orthopedic Research Excellence, said the Simplified Spine Testing Device standardizes the range-of-motion testing for pre- and post-surgical procedures.

“The device is used on cadaver samples in the lab to design the surgical process from start to finish,” Goel said. “This standardization greatly reduces the amount of time needed to test range of motion using CT scans and other imaging.”

The patent also was assigned to The University of Toledo, ATS Holdings LLC, the University of Kansas, Norman L. Carroll, Edward C. Cartwright, Robert J. Gephardt, Christopher L. Dixon and Elizabeth A. Friis. The Simplified Spine Testing Device has been licensed to Applied Testing Systems LLC for continued development and commercialization.

Additionally, Goel and his colleagues Dr. Anand Agarwal and Dr. Sarit Bhaduri, UT professors of bioengineering, founded a spinal biological startup company called OsteoNovus. Goel and Agarwal also founded Spinal Balance, and co-developed other medical devices, including the Libra Pedicle Screw System. The pre-sterilized, individually packaged screw system was designed to reduce the risk of surgical infection for spine surgery patients.

BACK AND FORTH: Manoj Kodigudla, research engineer in Dr. Vijay Goel’s lab, made adjustments to the spine testing device in the lab.
Photography book frames Toledo’s past to highlight present

By Vicki L. Kroll

Guts — that’s what Ben Morales needed to get some of the photos for Hindsight: Northwest Ohio Through the Lens of Time.

There’s a shot of the Glass City’s iconic Anthony Wayne Bridge.

“Traffic never seems to slow on that bridge, and I had to walk out to the median. There really isn’t a place to stand; I had to straddle the cement median as traffic was whizzing by close to me,” he recalled.

And the Capital Tire & Rubber Co. building at the corner of Cherry Street and Spielbusch Avenue in downtown Toledo.

“I tried several times to get the photo, but I could never bring myself to walk out into the intersection because there was always traffic. And finally on my fourth or fifth attempt, I just went out and had some cars honking at me, and it was quite terrifying. And when I was leaving the intersection, I dropped my keys, so I had to run out there again and get them.

“It literally only took me 10 seconds to get the shot. It probably took me 10 minutes to get the courage to walk out there,” Morales said and laughed.

He waded into the cold, rushing Maumee River for a photo of Roche de Boeuf and Interurban Bridge in Waterville.

“Thankfully, my friend loaned me waders,” Morales said. “I needed to go into the river for the correct alignment for that shot.”

Perspective is critical for Hindsight, which features historical black-and-white photos that Morales held and lined up in front of the same locations to take new seamless shots that meld time.

It all started four years ago when the graphic designer was working at a local ad agency and was looking for inspiration for the “You Are Here Toledo” project. He searched for an old photo of the Washington Street Bridge.

“I found a really nice old shot of the bridge and, along with that, I found a lot of old shots of the Toledo area that I’d never seen before,” Morales said. “I was just kind of amazed by the richness of Toledo’s history and how interesting it looks and how different it looks, but at the same time, we could still see a glimpse of that today that I hadn’t really taken notice of until then.”

Something compelled him to print out a couple of the black-and-white shots. He cut out the images of the former Key Bank on Madison Avenue and a shot looking down Madison and tucked them into his pocket.

“On my lunch break, I was just walking around downtown and thought it would be cool to go to the actual locations and compare and contrast — look at the photo compared to how it looked in real life,” he said. “So I took the opportunity to walk to those locations and do my best to line them up, and I took my first shots with my old iPhone 4.”

Then he posted the photo of the old-timey snapshot framed in the present on Instagram.

“The photos got a really resounding response, and people suggested more locations,” Morales said. “I thought it would be interesting to try to see if I could find more of these photos and continue it as a series.”

Arjun Sabharwal, associate professor and digital initiatives librarian in Carlson Library, was a fan of Morales’ work on Toledo Rephotography on Instagram at #toledorephotography.

“What is particularly compelling is how Ben’s work combines new technology with history,” Sabharwal said. “The time, continued on p. 7
Psychiatrist addresses suicide during awareness month

By Rebecca Schwan

It is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the third leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 24, yet suicide remains a difficult topic for many people to address. September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and a University of Toledo psychiatrist wants to change the conversation surrounding mental illness and suicide to move toward a culture of acceptance and tolerance.

Dr. Tanvir Singh, medical director of child and adolescent inpatient psychiatry at the UT Kobacker Center, said mental illnesses should be treated the same way physical ailments are treated.

“We have shown that there are physical changes that occur with mental illness, but we don’t look at it with the same lens,” Singh said. “There are different, personalized treatments for someone who is experiencing chest pain. We need to do the same for patients who are experiencing emotional pain.”

He said mental illnesses are made up of a delicate balance of biological, psychological and social components, and there is not a one-size-fits-all method to treatment.

“Medications can work for some people, while others need more intensive treatment,” Singh said. “There have been improvements in the way we treat mental illness, but we need to focus more directly on evidence-based therapies to help each individual patient.”

Singh said patients having suicidal thoughts are in a state of dilemma. They make a conscious effort to try to stay positive and strong, but it isn’t long before they revert to old habits of thinking. He said it is this self-talk that can push people into isolation and put them at risk for suicide.

“These individuals struggle with their own thoughts,” Singh said. “They can begin to feel like they are a burden to their families or that they are not needed. These thoughts keep them from wanting to reach out to others, and they begin to pull away from friends and family.”

Maintaining a close relationship with those who are struggling mentally and emotionally is key, but Singh advised a careful approach to conversation.

“We always want to get to the bottom of a problem. We push for answers and can appear aggressive when we only want to help,” he said. “It’s best to just talk with individuals in a nonjudgmental way. If they are having suicidal thoughts, it will likely come to the surface naturally.”

Singh advised not every person will open up immediately, but he or she will know you care. He said engaging in regular conversation can reveal someone may be struggling emotionally.

UT physician warns overloaded backpacks could cause health problems

By Rebecca Schwan

School is in full swing and that means backpacks are loaded with textbooks, binders, homework and athletic gear. Backpacks are convenient for toting must-have items to school, but they can quickly become too heavy for children to carry safely.

Sept. 21 is National Backpack Awareness Day, and a University of Toledo physician advises parents to make sure children are properly loading and carrying backpacks to avoid back strain and pain.

“When a backpack is too heavy, its weight can pull the child backwards,” said Dr. Nabil Ebraheim, professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. “The child counteracts the weight by arching his or her back or bending forward, causing the spine to compress unnaturally, which can contribute to neck, shoulder and back pain.”

The best way to avoid back strain is to avoid overloaded backpacks. According to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, children should limit their backpack weight to between 10 and 15 percent of their body weight.

“It also is important that backpacks are sized properly to the child and have wide, padded straps as not to restrict circulation or cause nerve pain,” Ebraheim said. “A backpack with a waist strap also may help to transfer weight to the hips and help to prevent slouching.”

Students should be taught how to properly carry a backpack to avoid serious injury or long-term damage to the spine.

“Carrying a backpack over just one shoulder causes an uneven distribution of weight that forces the child to compensate by leaning to one side,” Ebraheim said. “That causes muscle strain and extra stress on the discs in the spine. Over time, it could contribute to more serious back problems such as scoliosis.”

Ebraheim said when loading a backpack, try to concentrate the bulk of the weight closest to the child’s body and near the middle of the back. This distribution of weight will help the child achieve better posture and balance, reducing the risk of back or neck injury and falls.

He said schools that are replacing heavy textbooks with tablets are on the right track.

“With today’s modern technology, there’s no reason students should be carrying so many textbooks back and forth to school,” he said. “Schools that make the switch to digital learning are doing more than simply engaging students with an interactive way to teach; they also are protecting students’ health by lightening the load of their backpacks.”
Gun-toting cyborg poet to speak Sept. 19

The UT Disability Studies Program will present gun-toting cyborg poet and performance artist Dr. Jillian Weise Monday, Sept. 19, at 3:30 p.m. in the Canaday Center for Special Collections on the fifth floor of Carlson Library.

Weise, who has won prestigious awards for her writing, will discuss gun ownership, cyborg culture, and the disturbing prevalence of ableism in the 21st century. She also will perform some of her award-winning poems.

“It’s a visit not to be missed, according to Dr. Jim Ferris, professor and chair of disability studies, who is the Lucas County poet laureate.

“Jillian Weise is insightful, provocative and entertaining all at once,” said Ferris, the Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies at the University. “She may well be the sassiest scholar to visit campus this year.”

Weise’s books include The Amputee’s Guide to Sex, The Colony and The Book of Goodbyes, which won the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets.

Her poems, “Biohack Manifesto” and “Future Biometrics” won the 2015 Wood Prize from Poetry magazine. Her essays include “Why I Own a Gun,” “Going Cyborg” and “Cloning Disabled Subjects.”

She has received fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center, the Fulbright Program and the Lannan Foundation.

Weise is playing the role of fictional character Tippy Tullivan, who gives writing tips on YouTube and Instagram.

For more information on the free, public program, contact the Disability Studies Program at 419.530.7244.

Photography book continued from p. 5

effort and imagination lends his book seriousness, credibility and originality.”

A history buff who helps manage Toledo’s Attic website, Sabharwal recalled three years ago when northwest Ohio’s virtual museum invited the public to contribute Instagram shots tagged #toledosattic: “By the time the contributions exceeded 2,000 images, the experiment had morphed into a publicly curated exhibition representing local history through the public eye.

Ben’s work was truly a gem from the outset.”

Floyd added, “I love the way you can almost walk into history through Ben’s photos.”

Photos and historical information on The University of Toledo, Ohio Theatre, Toledo Zoo, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Oliver House, Toledo Museum of Art, Side Cut Metropark, and other landmarks are included in the 145-page book.

“The Valentine Theatre, particularly with Houdini hanging from the top of the façade, is probably my favorite photo because I love Houdini and it fascinates me that he was even in Toledo let alone hanging by a chain with a straitjacket on,” Morales said.

That stunning shot also is a favorite of Yarko Kuk, managing editor of the UT Press, who helped track down historical information included in the book and arranged access for Morales to take some photos.

“Ben went to great lengths to create thoughtful then and now photographs,” Kuk said. “We really tried to capture the sense of a bygone era and the history that surrounds us.”

“That’s just something about old photos — there’s just sort of a haunting beauty behind them,” Morales mused.

Hindsight: Northwest Ohio Through the Lens of Time is $39.95 and available online at utoledopress.com, as well as at Rockets Bookstore, 3047 W. Bancroft St., and Gathering Volumes, 196 E. South Boundary St., Perrysburg.

“The past is all around us, but we don’t always notice it because it is often tucked away in between modern structures, and it may not be quite as visible as it once was,” Morales said. “I want people to be able to see, notice and appreciate the beauty of the past and take ownership of it.”
UT set to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month

The University of Toledo will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with several events to spotlight the culture.

“The celebration of Hispanic heritage is important to our campus and everyone around us because it’s the perfect opportunity for us to share the history of our ancestors and helps create an intimate knowledge of the role that Latinos have played in U.S. history with other cultures,” Arturo Ordoñez Vazquez, graduate assistant for Latino initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Student Success, said.

“It’s beneficial for Latinos to see their own faces reflected in the history of our country because it creates a connection between current generations and the past ones, motivating our people to start thinking about how they also can contribute and make a difference themselves. Our ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.”

Listed by date, the events facilitated through the UT Office of Multicultural Student Success and Latino Student Union include:

- **Thursday, Sept. 15** — Latino Student, Faculty and Staff Meet-and-Greet, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Student Union Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 21** — South American and Hispanic Students’ Association Cultural Presentation, 6 to 8 p.m., Student Union Room 2500.
- **Thursday, Sept. 22** — Diamante Awards, 6 to 9 p.m., Sofia Quintero Art & Cultural Center, 1225 Broadway St. Awards for Latino leadership and achievements in northwest Ohio will be presented at this event, which is co-sponsored by The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, Owens Community College and Herzing University. Tickets are $75 for the public and $25 for students in advance at diamantetoledo.org and will be $80 and $30, respectively, at the door.
- **Monday, Sept. 26** — Zumba classes featuring Latino culture and music, Student Recreation Center. Classes offered from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and from 7 to 8 p.m.; Aqua Zumba from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 27** — Zumba Class featuring Latino culture and music, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., Student Recreation Center.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 28** — South American and Hispanic Students’ Association Cultural Presentation, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Student Union Room 2500.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 30** — “14 the Movie,” 7 p.m., Student Union Room 2592. A question-and-answer session will follow the screening of the free, public documentary that explores birthrights and citizenship.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 5** — Speaker: Dr. Emanuel Maverakis, associate professor in the Department of Dermatology, Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California at Davis, 6 p.m., Wolfe Hall Room 1205. This free, public event is presented by We Are STEMM.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 10** — Latino Student Union’s Loteria Night, 7 to 8 p.m., Student Union Room 2592.
- **Thursday, Oct. 13** — Zumba classes featuring Latino culture and music, Student Recreation Center. Classes offered from 4 to 5 p.m., 5 to 6 p.m. and 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

For more information, go to utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss.