Civil rights icon, former UN ambassador to speak at UT Sept. 29

By Christine Long

The first African American to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations will speak at The University of Toledo Thursday, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m. in Savage Arena.

Andrew Young, a former member of Congress and mayor of Atlanta, worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement to organize desegregation efforts throughout the South, including the 1963 march through Birmingham, Ala. Young was with King in Memphis, Tenn., when King was assassinated in 1968.

“Ambassador Andrew Young’s life of humanitarian service and activism for racial and social justice can inspire all of us to reinvigorate our efforts as individuals and as a University and community to achieve justice, peace and inclusion,” Dr. Jamie Barlowe, dean of the UT College of Arts and Letters, said. “His presence on our campus is both a gift and a call to service, particularly important in today’s world of social and political unrest.”

The free, public event presented by UT’s College of Arts and Letters marks the 10th anniversary of the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture Series that has included such speakers as Toni Morrison, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Elie Wiesel, Oliver Sacks, E.J. Dionne, Michael Sandel, Jon Meacham and Wynton Marsalis.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Young served as U.N. ambassador from 1977 to 1979. He is the recipient of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, France’s Legion of Honor and the NAACP’s Springarn Medal. He founded the Andrew Young Foundation to support and promote education, health, leadership and human rights in the U.S., Africa and the Caribbean.

Chelsea Clinton visited the University last week to campaign for her mother, Hillary Clinton, who is running for president. She talked about her mother’s plans to address college financing and to fight the opioid drug epidemic as members of the UT and Toledo communities listened in the packed Student Recreation Center Maple Room.

University to launch strategic planning process

By Jen Sorgenfrei

The University of Toledo this week will begin work on a new strategic plan to advance its mission as a metropolitan research institution.

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the strategic planning committee will convene its inaugural meeting to receive its charge from President Sharon L. Gaber.

The committee is comprised of nearly 30 UT faculty, staff, administrators and students, and includes a member of the Board of Trustees. Under the guidance of Provost Andrew Hsu, the committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil, Distinguished University Professor of Early Childhood, Physical and Special Education, and Dr. Anthony Quinn, associate professor of biological sciences.

The University has engaged strategic planning consultant Sharon McDade to facilitate the process and keep the committee on track.

UT starts faculty leadership programs

By Meghan Cunningham

A new fellowship program and leadership institute at The University of Toledo will provide opportunities for increased faculty leadership development on campus.

UT President Sharon L. Gaber and Provost Andrew Hsu are launching the two programs to present opportunities in higher education administration and improve career satisfaction among the University’s faculty.

“UT has some fantastic faculty, and we want to further develop those future academic leaders for success in higher education administration,” Gaber said.

“We are committed to providing opportunities to help prepare future academic leaders and if these opportunities...
THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

UT ranked among world’s top research universities

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo is ranked among the world’s top research universities in the 2017 Times Higher Education World University Rankings released last week.

Out of the 980 ranked institutions across 79 countries, which represents 5 percent of the world’s higher education institutions, UT is listed in the range between 501 and 600. The ranking system reviews the core missions of the universities — teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

“Rankings provide an important measurement tool to evaluate where UT stands among its peers in higher education, and this specific ranking provides both an international perspective and one that emphasizes research,” said Dr. Frank Calzonetti, vice president of research. “UT researchers increasingly collaborate with international colleagues as we work together to solve the issues facing our world, and this ranking reflects the positive impact of our research efforts.”

UT was invited to submit data to the Times Higher Education in 2015 in recognition of its research enterprise and was ranked for the first time in 2016 in the 501 to 600 band, but among 800 institutions at that time.

In the most recent rankings, which reflect data from 2014, UT experienced its greatest growth in the citation impact category that is calculated by an independent review of the number of times research articles by UT faculty members are cited in the scholarly work of others.

The rankings also take into account teaching and research reputation, percentage of international staff and students, and research and instructional income, among other factors.

The top university in the world, according to the 2017 Times Higher Education World Rankings, is the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. It is the first time a U.S. institution does not top the list in the 12-year history of the rankings.

UT fared well among Ohio universities: Ohio State is 72, Case Western Reserve University is 126, University of Cincinnati is in the 201 to 250 range; Kent State University is in the 401 to 500 range, and Miami University and Ohio University are in the 601 to 800 range.
Flu shots available soon for UT employees and students

By Rebecca Schwan

In an effort to keep its employees and patients healthy this flu season, The University of Toledo will provide several opportunities to receive flu shots on campus throughout October and November.

The vaccinations will be offered free of charge to all physicians, faculty, staff, residents, students, health-care workers and volunteers during a six-week period starting Monday, Oct. 3, and ending Friday, Nov. 18.

This is the second year for the universal flu shot policy. Flu shots are required for individuals who work in the hospital and ambulatory clinics, and for those whose duties require them to enter patient care areas. Proof of vaccination is required by Thursday, Dec. 1.

While not required for faculty, staff and students on Main Campus, vaccinations are highly encouraged, and clinics will be available for those wishing to get a flu shot.

Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection that can lead to serious complications for young children, the elderly, and those with certain medical conditions. Kip Miller, director of primary care clinics, said healthy individuals can transmit influenza even if they are not exhibiting symptoms.

“It is important that we control the spread of influenza as much as possible,” he said. “We should always be mindful of the health of the patients we come in contact with and help to reduce the spread of the flu, particularly among those whose health is already compromised due to illness or surgery.”

A full immunization schedule is available online at https://webinfluenzaapp.utoledo.edu. Individuals need to complete the vaccine administration questionnaire found on this website prior to receiving a vaccination. Those wishing to receive their flu shot outside of the flu clinics must upload proof of immunization to this website.

Individuals seeking to file an exemption due to religious or medical reasons need to have a request on file by Monday, Oct. 31. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Those granted an exemption will be required to wear a mask during flu season, which typically runs from Dec. 1 through March 31.

“We had a good response to the requirement when implemented last year,” Miller said. “We are confident that our health-care community will continue to support this effort to keep us all healthier this flu season.”

Following the kickoff meeting, the committee will engage in a process throughout the fall to discuss the current status of the University and solicit input through a series of town hall forums and online surveys. The input will be used to develop a draft plan that will be shared for feedback early in spring semester.

A final plan is expected for the Board of Trustees’ consideration in summer 2017.

Strategic planning

continued from p. 1

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Faculty leadership programs

continued from p. 1

are appropriate at this point in your career, we hope you will consider applying,” Hsu said.

The first UT Presidential Faculty Fellowship through the Office of the President will award two faculty members the opportunity to shadow the president and provost in a mentorship program during the upcoming spring semester. The fellows, who are to receive a one-course release, will work on projects that further the institution and receive insight into the skills needed in higher education administration.

The inaugural UT Leadership Institute through the Office of the Provost will provide up to 15 faculty members the opportunity to participate in a six-month program beginning in December that features monthly discussions of various aspects of leadership in higher education. Issues such as the administrative structure of higher education, leadership styles, critical issues facing administrators, funding, diversity and inclusion will be addressed by current UT leadership and invited speakers. It is open to all tenured faculty who aspire to be administrators, as well as current chairs and associate or assistant deans who aspire to a greater level of leadership responsibility.

Applications are being accepted for both competitive programs. Visit utoledo.edu/offices/president/faculty-fellowship to apply for the fellowship program by the Oct. 14 deadline and utoledo.edu/offices/provost/ut-leadership-institute.html to apply for the leadership institute by the Oct. 28 deadline.
Researcher receives grant to study removal of algal bloom toxins from drinking water sources

By Christine Long

The National Science Foundation awarded a civil and environmental engineer at The University of Toledo a $224,937 grant to study a sustainable approach to water treatment and filtering toxins from harmful algal blooms.

Dr. Youngwoo Seo, associate professor of civil engineering and chemical and environmental engineering, will lead the three-year project titled “Engineering Biofilm Dynamics for Cyanotoxins in Biological Water Treatment.”

Seo is seeking to better understand how bacteria works in order to improve the filters that remove harmful toxins from drinking water.

“Research emphasis will be placed on understanding how the bacterial biofilm formation and activity can be enhanced and maintained by engineered approaches such as bioaugmentation and bio-stimulation in order to improve performances of biological filtration systems for cyanotoxin removal,” said Seo. “However, these processes commonly require high-energy demand and operation cost with proper waste management. This project is exploring a sustainable treatment approach using bacterially active filters to remove toxins from harmful algal blooms.”

“There could not be a more timely and more important research project to award than this,” Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur said. “Lake Erie is under constant threat of toxic algal blooms, and we need to find a more sustainable way to treat the water. Our entire region — our economic future and our livelihood — relies on ongoing research such as this at The University of Toledo.”

According to the National Science Foundation grant, “Research focus will be placed on understanding how the bacterial biofilm formation and activity can be enhanced and maintained by engineered approaches such as bioaugmentation and bio-stimulation in order to improve performances of biological filtration systems for cyanotoxin removal.”

Soaking it up

A total of 224 volunteers from the UT community, including this group by the Law Center and the Ottawa River, braved the rain for the annual Clean Your Streams event Sept. 17 and removed more than 100 bags of debris and numerous items from Main and Health Science campuses, as well as along local streams and rivers. Several UT organizations participated: UT Habitat for Humanity, Chi Epsilon, UT tennis team, Gamma Theta Upsilon, University YMCA, Muslim Student Association and UT American Society of Civil Engineers.

“Garbage removal was a big hit, said Dr. Patrick Lawrence, associate dean of social and behavioral sciences in the College of Arts and Letters; professor of geography and planning; and chair of the President’s Commission on the River.

UT scientist uses algal bloom toxin-measuring research in new statistics textbook

By Christine Long

Two years after the Toledo water crisis left half a million residents without safe tap water for three days, a University of Toledo faculty researcher published a new statistics textbook for scientists with Lake Erie algal bloom toxins as featured examples.

Dr. Song Qian, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, included his latest research related to the methods of measuring and reporting microcystin in the second edition of Environmental and Ecological Statistics With R.

“The increasing severity of algal blooms makes the book especially relevant,” Qian said. “We use many of the same methods for a very large-scale analysis of all the Great Lakes, as well as a very small-scale data analysis in the lab.”

Qian concentrated on making data analysis and statistical modeling accessible and understandable by applying it to real-world examples in environmental and ecological literature.

“When you package the data together with a complicated problem, such as the algal blooms here, it makes relating to the audience much easier,” Qian said. “I believe that studying statistics is not the same as learning mathematics. Statistics requires subject matter knowledge. Without knowing the nature of the data in a particular field and how the data were collected, we can rarely apply statistics well. Statistics is often the most challenging course for environmental graduate students. I hope that examples such as measuring Lake Erie harmful algal bloom toxins would make the learning process easier, especially in making connections to their individual research subjects.”

The book has received reviews on Amazon.com from environmental statistics scholars worldwide.

“The R code included in the book outlines key computational procedures and provides a workable foundation upon which researchers can conduct scientific inference and statistical analysis with their own data,” Dr. Kenneth H. Reckhow, professor emeritus at Duke University, wrote.

“This book gives us a new way to teach statistics to biological and ecological students at research level,” Dr. Bo-Ping Han, professor in the Department of Ecology at Jinan University in China, wrote.

“I particularly enjoyed the third section of the book covering interesting areas of advanced statistical modeling, where the reader can find many didactical examples that are highly relevant to environmental management such as the problem of Cryptosporidium in drinking water, the uncertainty in water quality measurements using the ELISA method as an example, or the threshold indicator taxa analysis,” wrote Dr. George Arhonditsis, professor and chair of the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at the University of Toronto.
Increasing awareness

Katie Bush, UT clinical simulation and educational research associate, spoke at the 13th Annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference, which was held last week in the Student Union. She gave a presentation titled “Victim-Centered Simulation: Care of the Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking Patient.” Survivors, social workers, law enforcement officers, educators, nurses and researchers from around the globe attended the two-day conference to bring the sex and labor trafficking trades out of the shadows and help end the abuse through education and advocacy. The event was hosted by UT’s Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute and the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition.

New citizens

Natalie Millan-Perez held 3-month-old Sergio Weber and posed for a photo with Judge James R. Knepp II of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and UT President Sharon L. Gaber at a naturalization ceremony Sept. 16 in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium. Millan-Perez, a former resident of Colombia, was among 18 who received certificates of citizenship at the event that was held at the University to celebrate Constitution Day. The ceremony was sponsored by the Office of Government Relations and the Center for International Studies and Programs.

Apply by Oct. 10 to compete ‘Shark Tank’-style at Pitch & Pour

Organizers of northwest Ohio’s largest entrepreneurial business pitch competition and networking event called Pitch & Pour are looking for people with ideas to compete for up to $10,000 in cash and prizes.

The application deadline for the competition modeled after “Shark Tank” is Monday, Oct. 10. Any technology-based business startup can apply.

Pitch & Pour 5.0 will take place from Thursday, Nov. 10, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex at The University of Toledo.

“We are proud to be providing the opportunity for candidate companies and entrepreneurs to enlist in the event,” Jessica Sattler, director of economic engagement and business development programs at UT, said. “We’re looking for high-tech, high growth, technology-enabled, web-based enterprises that demonstrate innovation and business concepts with the potential to develop into successful companies.”

Selected teams have five minutes and five slides to pitch their business concepts to the region’s investors, venture capitalists, professors and business leaders. Judges determine the winner. UT LaunchPad Incubation plans to finalize teams by mid-October.

“Although the prizes we award our competitors are great, gaining exposure to influencers who can spot successful ventures can often prove more valuable,” Sattler said. “Connecting with northwest Ohio’s tech business leaders and investors creates valuable opportunity to help your business grow.”

Pitch & Pour competitors have the opportunity to be invited to join UT’s LaunchPad Incubation Program, which works to bolster innovation in northwest Ohio by providing access to capital, resources and expertise focused on enhancing community collaboration and communication for entrepreneurial development.

To apply for the Pitch & Pour event, visit pitchandpour.com.
Celebrate Right to Read at Banned Books Week Vigil Sept. 29

By Carly Wiegand

University students, faculty and staff, and area citizens will celebrate the right to read and think freely during the 19th annual UT Banned Books Week Vigil Thursday, Sept. 29, on the fifth floor of Carlson Library.

The free, public event will begin at 9 a.m. and run until 5 p.m. Throughout the day, 20-minute presentations will focus on censorship and the importance of freedom of expression.

All day, free snacks and light refreshments will be available, and door prizes — including donated banned books and UT items — will be given out to make the event fun as well as educational for the audience.

UT faculty and area teachers are invited to bring classes; attendance vouchers will be available at the freedom of expression festival.

“I hope the UT Banned Books Week Vigil raises awareness of the importance of reading to our democracy,” Dr. Paulette D. Kilmer, UT professor of communication, who coordinates the event, said. “Without reading freely, citizens could not think freely and, therein, would not ask the questions that lead to reform and a better nation. I hope the event gives students a fun break from their routines and enlarges their understanding of the First Amendment.”

Topics and speakers for the event will be:

• 9 a.m. — “Read On, Everybody! Welcome to Our Annual Celebration of Free Inquiry” by Barbara Floyd, interim director of University Libraries and director of the UT Press, and Dr. Jeffrey Wilkinson, professor and chair of communication.

• 9:30 a.m. — “Free Expression and the Inside-Out Prison Exchange” by Emily Numbers, community and public relations specialist in the College of Engineering and community art coordinator.

• 10 a.m. — “Censorship and Media Ethics” by Sarah Ottney, former editor of the Toledo Free Press, which closed in 2015.


• 11:30 a.m. — “W.W. III: The War Against Women” by Warren Woodberry, Toledo author.

• Noon — The Dr. Linda Smith Lecture: “Owning the Words: Intellectual Property, First Amendment Law, and the Parlous State of Free Speech” by Dr. Sam Nelson, associate professor and chair of political science and public administration.

• 1 p.m. — “Lifting the Veil: Banning the Graphic Novel Persepolis” by Dr. Matt Yockey, associate professor of theatre and film.

• 1:30 p.m. — “Revealing the Hidden Rules of Broadcast News” by Lou Hebert, Toledo broadcaster and historian.

• 2 p.m. — “Words” By Dr. David Tucker, professor of communication.

• 2:30 p.m. — “Oops! When lol Posts Backfire” by Jessica Harker, editor-in-chief of The Independent Collegian.

• 3 p.m. — “Jeopardy!” led by The Independent Collegian staff.

• 3:30 p.m. — “The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs,” an episode of “South Park” in which J.D. Salinger’s The Catcher in the Rye is revisited.

• 4 p.m. — “What? Can You Teach THAT?” by Cindy Ramirez, Bedford High School English teacher.

• 4:30 p.m. — “Banned Songs” by Dr. Edmund Lingan, associate professor and chair of theatre and film.

Kilmer said this Banned Books Week Vigil would not be possible without help form generous sponsors: Ann Lumbrezer; Aramark; Barry’s Bagels; The Independent Collegian; Lambda Pi Eta, UT Communication Honor Society; UT Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America; Mitchell and Kelley Auctioneers; New Sins Press; Phoenicia Cuisine; Barnes & Noble University Bookstore; UT Campus Activities and Programming; UT Center for Experiential Learning and Career Development; UT Counseling Center; UT College of Arts and Letters; UT Jesup Scott Honors College; UT Department of Art; UT Department of Communication; UT Department of English Languages and Literature; UT Office of Multicultural Student Success; UT Federal Credit Union; UT Toledo Friends of the Library Foundation; UT Department of Visual and Performing Arts; UT Department of Language and Literature; UT Office of the Dean of Students; UT Office of the Provost; UT Theatre and Film Department; UT Student Government; UT Student Government; UT Theatre and Film Department; UT Starbucks’s; UT School of Visual and Performing Arts; and WXUT radio station. She added a special thanks to the UT Office of the President and the Office of the Provost.
Three UT graduate students won gift cards for their striking shots entered in the 2016 Ottawa River Photography Contest.

Bruce Kwiatkowski, who is pursuing a master of arts degree in German, won first place with his photo titled “Winter Scene.”

Tyler Westendorf, a graduate student in environmental science, came in second with his shot, “Bridge View.”

And Isha Muthreja, a graduate student in engineering, took third place with her photo titled “Reflections.”

“This contest was created to encourage students to take a closer look at the Ottawa River,” said Dr. Patrick Lawrence, associate dean of social and behavioral sciences in the College of Arts and Letters; professor of geography and planning; and chair of the President’s Commission on the River. “And it’s a great way to showcase the beauty of the waterway that we’re lucky to have run through campus.”

The event was part of the Celebrate Our River Week and was sponsored by the President’s Commission on the River.
Documentary to be screened as part of Hispanic Heritage month

By Carly Wiegand

“14 The Movie: Dred Scott, Wong Kim Ark and Vanessa Lopez” will be shown Friday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. in Student Union Room 2592.

“We believe this documentary is perfect to show during Hispanic Heritage Month because this is a topic that affects Latinos on campus directly and indirectly through ourselves, family and friends,” Arturo Ordoñez Vazquez, graduate assistant for Latino initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Student Success, said. “14” explores the recurring question about who has the right to be an American citizen. The documentary examines the citizenship clause of the 14th Amendment through personal stories and history. The story is told through the lives of three American families who changed history by their challenges to the status quo.

“This film was chosen because it explores the question about who has the right to be an American citizen,” Ordoñez Vazquez said. “Even today, some want to restrict birthright citizenship to children whose parents are U.S. citizens or permanent residents only if they are born here themselves. Many of our students have family members who are undocumented or have ancestors from other countries. It’s a perfect film to show during a month of diversity celebration in order to spread knowledge on the issue. In addition, immigration is a huge topic right now with the next presidential election.”

He said he hopes that UT students and community members open their hearts to this issue.

“Many of the undocumented people in the U.S. have planted their roots here and have U.S. citizen families. You can’t label all people the same or tear families apart,” Ordoñez Vazquez said. “The film also introduces the case of Dred and Harriet Scott, who claimed they were enslaved in the Missouri territory. Although a court agreed that they were free, upon appeal the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that, as descendants of Africans, they did not have freedom. In other words, all black people in the United States and its territories could be stripped of any right at any time because they were not truly citizens. This is a film we can all relate to as immigrants,” Ordoñez Vazquez said.

Ordoñez Vazquez said a question-and-answer session will follow the documentary.

The free, public screening is part of the University’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. For more information, call Carly Wiegand at 419.530.2261.

Eberly Center offers lunchtime talks, discussions

By Anna Brogan-Knight

The Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women will present the inaugural Lunch With a Purpose Tuesday, Sept. 27, at noon in Libbey Hall.

Lunch With a Purpose allows women researchers at The University of Toledo a venue to present their work to colleagues and specialists on campus and in the community, while fostering interdisciplinary discussions.

In honor of the impending voter registration deadline and the Eberly Center’s ongoing support of campaigns to encourage all eligible citizens to engage in the political process, Dr. Renée Heberle, UT professor of political science, will present a talk titled “Dignity vs. Rights: Exploring the Concrete Effects of Constitutional Principles in Germany and the US.”

As co-director of the Program in Law and Social Thought, interim director of the School for Interdisciplinary Studies, and coordinator of the Inside/Out Prison Exchange Project, Heberle’s perspective reinforces the feminist principles of political action and teaching.

“We are glad to highlight our great women researchers and appreciate all the work of the new [Eberly Center for Women] Faculty Advisory Board to make this happen,” said Dr. Shanda Gore, associate vice president for the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women and the Minority Business Development Center. “From supporting the Association for Women in Science Mentoring Circle initiative, engaging students in our upcoming women in writing and business panels, and promoting professional development at the ACE Ohio Women’s Network annual conference on Nov. 4, the Eberly Center continues to meet the needs of our students and faculty.”

Campus and community members are invited to bring their lunches to hear Heberle and participate in discussion. Space is limited; call 419.530.8570 to RSVP.
The College of Arts and Letters presents
The 2016 Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture

Ambassador Andrew Young
Civil Rights Icon

Andrew Young has spent his lifetime heeding a call to service. He was instrumental in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, working closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in organizing desegregation efforts throughout the South, including the historic 1963 march through Birmingham, Ala. The first African-American from the Deep South to be elected to U.S. Congress after Reconstruction, he was later the first U.S. African-American Ambassador to the United Nations and Mayor of Atlanta. Young is the recipient of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, the French Legion D’Honneur, the NAACP’s Springarn Medal and the Olympic Order Award.

The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m., with seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

Previous Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture Series Speakers
E.J. Dionne, Jr. • Oliver Sacks • Robert F. Kennedy Jr. • Elie Wiesel • Toni Morrison • Jon Meacham
Wynton Marsalis • Michael Sandel
Physiologist receives grant to study leading cause of death in America

By Rebecca Schwan

Atherosclerosis is the main cause of coronary heart disease, the leading cause of death in western societies, and costs the United States more than $200 billion in medical expenses and lost wages each year.

Also known as hardening of the arteries, atherosclerosis is an inflammatory condition in which plaque builds up inside arteries and restricts blood flow, which can lead to reduced flow of blood through coronary arteries, heart attack and stroke.

A University of Toledo researcher has received a $378,750 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to study a new way to treat this devastating condition.

“You hear the commercials all the time for drugs that help control cholesterol and blood pressure,” said Dr. Guillermo Vazquez, associate professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and associate director of UT’s Center for Hypertension and Personalized Medicine. “These medications help manage two of the major risk factors for atherosclerosis progression and can reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke, but it is our goal to find new, complementary strategies that could also help reduce the plaque burden in coronary heart disease.”

He said the body has natural ways of clearing arteries of this buildup, but cells called macrophages that take part in this process can become overwhelmed as the plaque grows thicker.

“Specialized cells called macrophages should carry lipids out of the plaque, but they can get stuck, which then contributes to the buildup and further reduces blood supply to the heart,” Vazquez said.

Vazquez and his team have discovered that a protein named TRPC3, which is present in these macrophages, could be controlled in order to help reduce the size of the plaque inside the arteries. They say that removing or turning off the TRPC3 protein may allow the macrophages to leave the arteries, reducing plaque buildup.

“We have developed mouse models of atherosclerosis in which we can test our hypothesis that interrupting TRPC3 functions may lead to increased mobility of the macrophage cells,” Vazquez said. “This concept shows promise for the development of complementary pharmaceuticals that could eventually be used in conjunction with traditional cholesterol-lowering drugs to accelerate the reduction in plaque burden.”

Vazquez also was the recipient of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology’s Service Award in recognition for his excellent support and promotion of the department and the Center for Hypertension and Personalized Medicine. He was recognized at the department’s annual retreat last month.

Political Science Dept. hosting presidential debate watch events for students

By Christine Long

The University of Toledo Department of Political Science and Public Administration is holding its first presidential debate watch event with students Monday, Sept. 26, at 9 p.m. in University Hall Room 3820.

Political science students will watch the debate between Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump, engage in fact-checking, follow social media response, and participate in a discussion and evaluation.

“The debates are the last significant events that potentially move poll numbers unless there is a sudden major economic crisis or terror attack,” Dr. Sam Nelson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, said. “Debates are rarely game-changers, but Trump is a different kind of candidate, so maybe they will have bigger effects than in the past. It’s important for students to participate in the process and see both candidates side by side answering questions about issues facing the country.”

A presidential debate watch event also is scheduled to be held Wednesday, Oct. 19, in the same location.
Center for Health and Successful Aging offers adult fitness walking program this fall

By Rebecca Schwan

The University of Toledo invites adults to participate in free fitness walking classes to improve cardiovascular health, increase fitness and endurance levels, and combat the effects of aging.

RocketWalk FitTracks will be held in Metroparks of the Toledo Area weekdays now through November. The morning fitness walking classes meet at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at Wildwood Preserve Metropark in Toledo and depart from the Metz Visitor Center. Fitness walks are held Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. at Pearson Metropark in Oregon and meets in Parking Lot 9.

“FitTracks is a great partnership with the Metroparks of Toledo to improve the health and well-being of adults in northwest Ohio,” said Darci Ault, education and outreach coordinator for UT’s Center for Health and Successful Aging. “We want people to take charge of their health before they experience a health crisis or diagnosis of disease. This is about setting healthy habits now that allow us to maintain our health as we age.”

Classes are geared to accommodate beginner, intermediate and advanced fitness levels and are available on a drop-in basis. Participants will receive a free T-shirt.

“Fall is a great time to get out to walk and explore the trails at our metroparks,” Ault said. “We have over 40 people enrolled in the RocketWalk FitTracks program. People enjoy the camaraderie of exercising in a group and the positivity it brings. We welcome people to start in the program anytime throughout this fall season.”

For more information about RocketWalk FitTracks or the Center for Health and Successful Aging, call 419.530.5208.
The University of Toledo and ProMedica have joined together in an Academic Affiliation to enhance medical education and health care in our region. It’s the next generation of medicine.

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