Conference to focus on drinking water challenges in Flint, Toledo and Waukesha

The University of Toledo, whose researchers are on the front lines of the effort to fight algal bloom toxins and pollution in the Great Lakes, will host the 16th annual Great Lakes Water Conference this week at the College of Law.

The public drinking water supply will be the focus of the event titled “Safe Drinking Water: A Tale of Three Cities” Friday, Nov. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium.

The conference will address the diverse drinking water challenges faced by Toledo and Flint, Mich., and Waukesha, Wis. The one-day conference is sponsored by the UT College of Law and its Legal Institute of the Great Lakes.

Flint’s lead-contamination water crisis will be explored by experts, including keynote speaker Todd Flood, special counsel for the Michigan Department of Attorney General and a UT College of Law and its Legal Institute of the Great Lakes. "This conference will shed light on both the problems and potential solutions.”

For more information on the free, public conference, go to utoledo.edu/law/academics/ligl/conferences.html.

Water quality is a major research focus at UT. With $12.5 million in active grants underway, UT is studying algal blooms, invasive species such as Asian carp and pollutants, and looking for pathways to restore our greatest natural resource for drinking water.

Students identify popular bursts of baby names spanning more than a century

The third panel at 1:30 p.m. will cover the approval earlier this year of Waukesha’s controversial request to divert Lake Michigan water out of the Great Lakes basin because its groundwater source for public drinking water is contaminated with radium. Panelists will include the mayor of Waukesha and the head of the Chicago-based Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

“Safe drinking water is a necessity, but not a given, even in this water-rich region,” said Ken Kilbert, UT professor of law and director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes. "This conference will shed light on both the problems and potential solutions.”

For more information on the free, public conference, go to utoledo.edu/law/academics/ligl/conferences.html.

Water quality is a major research focus at UT. With $12.5 million in active grants underway, UT is studying algal blooms, invasive species such as Asian carp and pollutants, and looking for pathways to restore our greatest natural resource for drinking water.

continued on p. 10

2016-17 BASKETBALL SEASON TICKETS
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BASKETBALL PREVIEW — SEE PAGES 6 AND 7

continued on p. 11
National advocacy board recognizes UT physician for groundbreaking research

By Rebecca Schwan

Recognized as one of the world’s leading authorities on syncope and disorders of the autonomic nervous system, Dr. Blair Grubb, UT Distinguished University Professor of Medicine and director of the Clinical Electrophysiology Program, recently was honored for his groundbreaking work in dysautonomia research.

Dysautonomia describes a group of diseases in which the autonomic nervous system does not work properly, affecting the heart, bladder, intestines, and other organs and blood vessels.

The Dysautonomia Advocacy Foundation recognized Grubb at a reception in his honor Oct. 25 in Charleston, S.C. The association presented Grubb with a $25,000 award to support his research efforts.

“We presented Dr. Grubb with $5,000 last year, and we are so impressed with his progress in groundbreaking research into the role of autoimmunity in the pathogenesis of postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), we decided to quintuple our gift this year,” said Sarah Glenn Smith, president of the association’s board.

Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, known as POTS, is a form of dysautonomia and the condition characterized by an inappropriate elevation in heart rate and drop in blood pressure when standing up that can cause lightheadedness and palpitations.

“We see people from all over the world with varying levels of disability due to these diseases. We are working hard to determine what causes dysautonomia so we can improve their lives,” Grubb said. “This funding will help us to continue our exploration of dysautonomia as an autoimmune disease.”

Grubb pioneered many of the diagnostic and treatment modalities that are in common use for these disorders today and has authored more than 240 scientific papers, as well as five books and 35 book chapters.

He was recognized as one of “America’s Top Doctors” for 12 years in a row and received UT’s Distinguished University Professor award in 2009 and 2015. He was named Dysautonomia International’s Physician of the Year in 2015 and the Medical Professional of the Decade by the British Heart Rhythm Society and Arrhythmia Alliance in 2015.

While in South Carolina, Grubb also presented a lecture, “Autonomic Disorders: A Guide for the Clinician,” at the Medical University of South Carolina’s Grand Rounds Continuing Medical Education.

A research fund has been established to support Grubb’s mission to care for patients impacted by this condition. Visit https://give2ut.utoledo.edu/grubb.asp to make a donation. For more information, contact Allie Berns, assistant director of annual giving programs, at 419.530.5414 or allison.berns@utoledo.edu.

Many provide input to strategic planning process

By Barbara J. Owens

More than 200 students, faculty and staff participated in the first round of discussion sessions about the University’s future over the last two weeks.

Greater than half of the participants were University staff, with the rest split evenly between faculty and students.

Three sessions were held on Health Science Campus and four on Main Campus, including one in which the public was invited to comment.

Many more people submitted input via an online survey. More than 350 submissions had been received by Friday morning.

Participants at the sessions were given a brief overview of the planning process and asked to respond to two questions:

• What do you feel are the strengths that UT should build upon in the future?

• What areas should UT improve upon in the next five years to move the institution forward, and what action do you recommend to move forward the areas that you note?

The sessions were led by strategic planning committee co-chair Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil, Distinguished University Professor and chair of early childhood, higher education and special education, or committee co-chair Dr. Anthony Quinn, associate professor of biological sciences and assistant dean for diversity and inclusion in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

The information gathered from these sessions will be introduced into the discussions that members of the strategic planning committee are having. To date, the committee has worked to identify the University’s many strengths, challenges and opportunities. Once the online input is available, the committee will use this input in the second round of discussion sessions.

continued on p. 3
Metered parking available to UT community, guests near Student Union

**By Meghan Cunningham**

A new parking lot configuration near the Student Union is now complete offering guests easier access to quickly use the building’s services and be on their way.

Parking area 11 to the east of the Student Union and south of the Snyder Memorial Building has been expanded and now offers 24-hour metered parking for members of the UT community and general public to quickly run an errand near the center of Main Campus.

The parking area previously had eight handicapped parking locations; through the expansion, handicapped parking increased to 17 spots. A central parking meter accepting both coins and cards provides access to 37 new spots in the lot. The meter, which is solar-powered, is located just outside the Student Union.

An additional feature of the new technology just installed is an extend-by-phone tool through which you can get a message on your phone 10 minutes before the meter expires with the option to add more time via your card without running outside to feed the meter.

“This new metered parking lot helps us provide an easy-access, short-term parking option for UT community and guests right outside the Student Union, but also close to the library and a number of buildings around Centennial Mall,” Sherri Kaspar, public safety support services manager, said.

The fee to park in this lot is 50 cents per 15 minutes, with a $2 minimum charge for one hour of parking if you choose to pay with a card. Because it is a prime location, the fee is more expensive than the other meters on campus that charge 25 cents per 15 minutes, Kaspar said.

“This is in line with the University’s transition to a demand-based parking philosophy that aims to provide more choices for our campus community and value parking locations based on demand,” she said.

A more demand-based parking system will be implemented for the 2017-18 academic year.

Deadline approaching for receiving influenza vaccine

**By Rebecca Schwan**

UT Health faculty, staff, residents, students, health-care workers and volunteers are reminded to schedule their free influenza vaccine. The final day shots will be administered is Tuesday, Nov. 15.

The universal flu shot policy was adopted last year as an effort to prevent the spread of influenza and to keep employees and patients healthy. Vaccines are required for individuals who work in the hospital, ambulatory clinics, and those whose duties require them to enter patient care areas.

Proof of vaccination is required by Dec. 1. A list of remaining vaccination times and locations is available online at https://webinfluenzaapp.utoledo.edu. Individuals are reminded to complete the vaccine administration questionnaire found on this website prior to receiving a vaccination.

Kip Miller, director of primary care clinics, said there has been a good response to the program this year.

“Typically we have a bell curve response, with a few early adopters and the bulk of people receiving their vaccine during the mid-point of the drive,” he said.

“As we are drawing near the deadline, we want to remind those remaining individuals who have not yet gotten immunized that they have the opportunity to do so right here at work and school.”

Those who choose to receive a flu shot at their doctor’s office or other clinic need to upload proof of immunization to the UT influenza vaccine website.

In memoriam

**Dr. John Chrysochoos**

Toledo, professor emeritus of chemistry, died Oct. 23 at age 82. A physical chemist, he joined the UT faculty as an assistant professor in 1967. The native of the Greek island Ikaria was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and professor in 1976. Chrysochoos served as department chair in 1993 and 1994; he retired in 2003. The avid UT sports fan wrote eight books, including Longevity, In Reason We Trust, Elusive Dreams and Ikaria — Paradise in Peril.

**Dr. Andrew Delbecq**

Almeda, Calif., who was a business faculty member in the 1960s; died Oct. 12 at age 80. The Toledo native graduated with honors from UT in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He was a lecturer at his alma mater in 1959 and 1960. After receiving master’s and doctoral degrees, he returned to Toledo as an assistant professor of general business in 1962 and was an associate professor of organization behavior when he left the University in 1967.

Strategic planning

**continued from p. 2**

feedback to begin identifying themes where the University should focus in the next five years.

“It is exciting to see some overall themes beginning to develop in our discussions,” said Provost Andrew Hsu, who is responsible for the planning process.

“We are pleased that the UT community is sharing its ideas with us, and we are eager to continue our work.”

OCT. 31, 2016
Catholic studies lecture to examine election, morality

By Carly Wiegand

“Morality and the Election: Why Liberals and Conservatives Can’t Understand Each Other” will be the topic of the Center for Religious Understanding’s Annual Murray/Bacik Lecture in Catholic Studies Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Dr. Peter Feldmeier, who will give the lecture, is the Murray/Bacik Endowed Professor of Catholic Studies, a position he has held for the last five years at The University of Toledo.

“This lecture is important because of its timeliness as it comes the week before the election,” Feldmeier said. “It deals with how one comes to make moral decisions and how the moral framework regarding politics works with that process.”

He said one thing he hopes the community takes away is a better understanding of the moral principles people draw on to make political assessments.

“Much of our moral intuitions are just that, intuitions. We rely more on our emotional lives and uncritically assess moral values to either confirm or reject political philosophies, policies and candidates. Our rational lives end up working more to justify our already determined conclusions,” Feldmeier said. “Breaking down how and why this is the case helps us toward better self-understanding. It also helps us to understand the political other. Both liberals and conservatives are often sure that they vote morally, and they cannot see how the political other could ever vote differently and still be moral. It turns out that they are drawing on different moral foundations or at least weighing them differently.”

He added, “As a religious studies professor, I have some expertise in religiously framed morality. I hope to extrapolate that and address the political world we live in. I also chose the topic because of the current acrimony not only among candidates, but also among those who favor a given side as opposed to the other side.”

The lecture is free, but tickets are required; RSVP at cfru.eventbrite.com.

Talmud’s math problem to be explained Nov. 2

How mathematicians finally solved an ancient numerical quandary will be the topic of a talk Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Dr. Alessandro Arsie, UT associate professor of mathematics, will discuss “A Mathematical Puzzle From the Talmud” at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Field House Room 2100.

For more than 1,500 years, scholars were trying to reveal the algorithm that the Talmud, a compendium of Jewish laws, used to divide the estate of a man who died and whose wealth was too small to pay his debts.

“The Talmud provided the following example: There are three creditors. Creditor one is owed 100, creditor two is owed 200, and creditor three is owed 300,” Arsie said. “Tractate Ketubot 93a says if the estate of the man who died is 100, then each creditor gets 33 and 1/3; if the estate of the man who died is 200, then creditor one gets 50 and creditors two and three both get 75; if the estate of the man who died is 300, then creditor one gets 50, creditor two gets 100, and creditor three gets 150.”

Arsie will analyze the algorithm in this example. This algorithm was discovered by Dr. Robert Aumann and Dr. Michael Maschler during the 1980s.

“I will explain their ingenious solution and its relation to game theory with some other mathematical algorithms that appear in the Talmud,” Arsie said. “Within the framework of Jewish culture, the solution provides insight into the moral question of what creditors are owed when they can’t be paid in full.”

The free, public event is sponsored by Delta X, Pi Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honor Society at the University, the Mathematics and Statistics Department, and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

In addition to the lecture, four students will be inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon.

For more information on the lecture, contact Dr. Ivie Stein Jr., UT associate professor of mathematics, at ivie.stein@utoledo.edu or 419.530.2994.
Assistant professor collaborates on book about rare songbird

By Josephine Schreiber

A UT researcher recently collaborated on a book about a migratory songbird with authors from 30 universities, government agencies and non-government organizations in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Henry Streby, assistant professor in the Environmental Sciences Department, co-edited and contributed to the book titled *Golden-Winged Warbler Ecology, Conservation and Habitat Management*.

The 250-page book about the rare bird was published by CRC Press and is part of a series called Studies in Avian Biology, which is a product of the Cooper Ornithological Society. It can be purchased online on the publisher’s website at crcpress.com and through other online bookstores.

Streby co-edited the book with Dr. David E. Andersen of the U.S. Geological Survey and Dr. David A. Buehler of the University of Tennessee. While each contributed to several of the chapters, there were 40 authors in total. Streby’s lab and close collaborators contributed to four chapters.

Streby said he has always been interested in nature and wildlife, but it wasn’t until college when he realized how complicated and exciting avian ecology could be.

“Golden-winged warblers have been the subject of a lot of attention over the past several years because they have almost disappeared in part of their breeding range,” Streby said. “They are holding strong in the western Great Lakes region, but their declines in other areas have led to their consideration to be listed under the Endangered Species Act.”

The goal with this book was to compile several of the top studies on the species over the last decade into a useful, peer-reviewed scientific outlet.

“There is a ton of information available about golden-winged warblers from various universities, conservation groups and online platforms,” Streby said. “Unfortunately, much of that information is based on assumptions, opinions and very small studies that don’t tell us much about the species as a whole.”

Golden-winged warblers breed throughout the Great Lakes region and the Appalachian Mountains. The small birds fly thousands of miles to winter in Central and South America.

According to Streby, research is only now starting to discover migratory connectivity of this species.

“If we are going to fully understand why some populations are doing well and others are declining rapidly, we have to find out where each population goes for the rest of the year and then study what they are dealing with down in the tropics,” Streby said.

The book features some of the first information about golden-winged warblers breeding in the core of their range in the western Great Lakes Region. It also includes some of the first information about what these birds do on their wintering grounds in Central and South America.

“We have a great deal of knowledge about golden-winged warblers, but there is still a lot to learn, and we need to be constantly updating and re-evaluating conservation and management strategies as new studies provide new information,” Streby said.
The women’s basketball team will play four squads that competed in the 2016 postseason, as well as travel to the Women’s Cancun Challenge.

UT will square off against three 2016 NCAA Tournament teams (UCLA, St. Bonaventure and Notre Dame) and one 2016 Postseason WNIT squad (Dayton) prior to beginning Mid-American Conference play. Two of the four contests will take place at the friendly confines of Savage Arena, as the Rockets will entertain the Bonnies (24-8) Sunday, Dec. 11, and the Fighting Irish (33-2) Sunday, Dec. 18.

“Last season’s schedule was one of the toughest I have ever challenged our team to play,” ninth-year Head Coach Tricia Cullop said. “With a young team, we struggled out of the gate before we hit our stride. This year, we have set the bar high once again with Notre Dame, UCLA and Dayton on the schedule, but I believe it’s a great way to improve. Great teams expose your weaknesses and give you a chance to address them before conference play. We grew a lot last year and return several of our key players. We can’t wait to get started.”

The Rockets’ season will officially tip off at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (9-20) Nov. 12. UT will battle the Islanders for the first time in program history and venture to the Lone Star State for the first time since 2009.

Toledo then will entertain Rhode Island (12-18) in its home opener Tuesday, Nov. 15, before embarking on a three-game road trip with the first stop at Cleveland State (9-20) Nov. 19.

The Rockets will keep their suitcases packed and head to Mexico for the Women’s Cancun Challenge for the first time. The Midnight Blue and Gold will take on Davidson (11-19) Nov. 24 and 2016 NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 participant UCLA (26-9) Nov. 25 as part of the two-game event. Toledo will compete against both squads for the first time in program history.

After playing four of their first five games away from home, the Rockets will play five of their six December contests at home, beginning with matchups against the University of Illinois at Chicago (12-18) Thursday, Dec. 1, and Madonna University (17-11) Sunday, Dec. 4.

Following a trip to Dayton to meet the 2016 Postseason WNIT participant Flyers (14-15) Friday, Dec. 9, UT will close out its non-conference slate with three straight home games against St. Bonaventure and Notre Dame, and Detroit (15-15) Wednesday, Dec. 21.

UT will play two contests against each of the five other MAC West Division schools as well as reigning MAC Tournament champion Buffalo (Feb. 1) and two-time defending MAC regular-season champion Ohio (Jan. 18) from the East Division throughout the regular season.

“We were given a difficult schedule with our cross-over games, but we look forward to the challenge,” said Cullop, a three-time MAC Coach of the Year. Toledo also will face the remaining East Division teams once, with Miami (Jan. 7) and archival Bowling Green (Feb. 11) visiting the Glass City, and the Rockets traveling to Kent State (Jan. 21) and 2016 Postseason WNIT participant Akron (Feb. 15).

The Rockets will open league play against division rival Ball State Saturday, Dec. 31, at home.

UT will play six of its first nine conference games in Savage Arena, before wrapping up MAC action with six of its final nine matchups on the road.

“The conference gets better and better each year, and proof of that was the parity of last year’s teams,” Cullop said. “There were numerous league games decided by single digits. I expect it to be another exciting season of MAC basketball, despite the graduation of some key players.”

A year ago, Toledo finished with a 17-13 overall record and a 12-6 ledger in the Mid-American Conference. UT placed third in the MAC West Division standings and earned a first-round bye in the league tournament. Toledo overcame a slow start to the year by winning 17 of its final 24 games. Along the way, they rattled off nine victories in a 10-game stretch, including two wins at the Arizona State University Classic to capture the tourney title.

Senior honorable mention All-MAC honoree Janice Monakana (11.1 points per game, 5.9 rebounds per game), junior honorable mention All-MAC selection Jay-Ann Bravo-Harriott (11.0 points per game, 3.1 assists per game) and senior Sophie Reecher (4.3 points per game, 3.6 rebounds per game) will lead the Rockets in 2016-17.

As far as numbers go, the Rockets welcome back 63.9 percent of their scoring, 71.1 percent of their rebounding, 51.5 percent of their assists, and 73.3 percent of their steals for this season.

“I’m excited about the depth and talent we have on this year’s team,” Cullop said. “We return a great nucleus from last year.”

Students are admitted free to home games with UT ID; tickets are half-price for University employees.

To order tickets, stop by the UT Athletic Ticket Office located in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena, go to http://utrockets.com or call 419.530.GOLD (4653).
Men’s basketball team ready to return to court

By Steve Easton

Highlighting the men’s basketball program’s 2016-17 schedule are four contests against 2016 NCAA Tournament squads as well as a trip to Nashville for the Challenge in Music City.

“Our non-conference schedule is going to be very competitive, and we’re facing a number of programs that played in the postseason last year,” Head Coach Tod Kowalczyk said. “I think we’re going to be tested quite a bit against what is one of the better mid-major schedules we have ever played. That will help us a great deal in our preparation for conference play.”

Toledo will open its season at defending Atlantic 10 tournament champion Saint Joseph’s (28-8) in Philadelphia Nov. 12. The Rockets will face Youngstown State (11-21) in its home opener Tuesday, Nov. 15, before playing its remaining November schedule on the road. UT will visit Wright State (22-13) Nov. 19 and defending Conference USA tournament champion Middle Tennessee State University (25-10) Nov. 22 before battling Evansville (25-9), Middle Tennessee and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington (25-8) in the Challenge in Music City Nov. 25-27.


The Rockets’ 18 Mid-American Conference games will consist of 10 contests against West Division opponents and eight more vs. East Division foes. UT will face archrival Bowling Green and Kent State twice as part of its cross-division slate.

Toledo will begin league play with two home games. UT’s conference opener is against archrival Bowling Green Jan. 17 and Northern Illinois Jan. 28 with road matchups vs. Kent State Jan. 21, Ohio Jan. 24, Ball State Jan. 31, and a second Battle of I-75 encounter with the Falcons Feb. 4.


The Rockets are returning three starters with senior guard Jonathan Williams leading the way after ranking third in the MAC with 17.6 points per game. Williams will be joined by classmates Zach Garber (6.0 points per game, 4.8 rebounds per game), Jordan Lauf (4.6 points per game, 3.8 rebounds per game) and Steve Taylor Jr. (sat out 2015-16 after transferring from Marquette). UT also will have a pair of sophomores, Nate Navigato (8.4 points per game, 3.4 rebounds per game) and Jaelan Sanford (8.2 points per game, 2.0 rebounds per game) who were key contributors last season.

Kowalczyk is entering his seventh season at UT and has orchestrated a dramatic turnaround since his arrival in 2010. He has guided the Midnight Blue and Gold to a 98-65 (601) win-loss mark over the last five years, including back-to-back 20-win campaigns in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Toledo also has registered 64 victories over the last three seasons, a total that ranks second among MAC members.

The Rockets also were the lone MAC school to be honored recently with the National Association of Basketball Coaches’ Team Academic Excellence Award, ranking 10th in all of college basketball with their 3.16 GPA. The honor was given to programs that possessed a 3.0 grade-point average or better in the 2015-16 campaign.

Students are admitted free to home games with UT ID; tickets are half-price for University employees.

To order tickets, stop by the UT Athletic Ticket Office located in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena, go to http://utrockets.com or call 419.530.GOLD (4653).
Author to give reading Nov. 3

By Carly Wiegand

Danzy Senna, author of the bestselling novel, Caucasia, will give the annual Richard M. Summers Memorial Lecture Thursday, Nov. 3, at 5 p.m. in Student Union Room 2592.

She will give a public reading, which will be followed by a reception when she will sign books.

“We chose Ms. Senna because her work deftly and fearlessly explores — with grace, humor and emotional honesty — the complex and often thorny issues of race, class and gender in the contemporary United States,” said Dr. Kimberly Mack, UT assistant professor of English.

“She confronts the constructed nature of race while developing characters who are tasked with finding ways to live authentically within those structures. Her novel, Caucasia, is also widely taught in our department, with students responding enthusiastically to her work.”

Mack encouraged attendance to the free, public event for the chance to hear from an influential writer.

“I hope that members of the UT and larger Toledo communities are inspired by their encounter with an important contemporary American writer whose work engages salient topics of contemporary relevance,” Mack said.

“The Summers Memorial Lecture offers the UT and larger Toledo communities an exciting opportunity to experience significant creative writers and literary scholars in a vibrant intellectual environment. For students who are studying literature or creative writing, the Summers Lecture exposes them to writers whose works can inform their own,” Mack said.

For more information on the Summers Memorial Lecture, call the UT Department of English Language and Literature at 419.530.2318.

Pianists to inaugurate UT’s new Steinway concert grand piano Nov. 6

By Angela Riddel

One dozen pianists will converge on Main Campus this weekend to inaugurate the University’s newest piano — a Steinway concert grand.

The concert will be held Sunday, Nov. 6, at 3 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

The piano was made possible in part from a gift from the late Dorothy MacKenzie Price, a woman who also contributed to the UT Department of Music, as well as many other causes, throughout her lifetime. The concert program will include a tribute to the generous benefactor.

Pianists for the concert will be Frances Renzi, UT professor emerita of music; Dr. Michael Boyd UT professor of music; Christina Montri, UT piano accompanist; University alumni Wayne Anthony, Heidi Clausius, Nathanael Leonard, and Bonnie Rowe; UT piano students Wesley Forney, Andreea Lee, Adam Miller and Mercy Olson; and guest Charles Brown.

The program will feature an array of piano music, including several pieces for four or more hands and/or two pianos: Danse Macabre, Poème Symphonique, Op. 40 (Camille Saint-Saëns); La Valse (Ravel); Tarantella from Suite, Op. 17 (Rachmaninoff) and Hungarian Rhapsody #2 for Two Pianos, eight hands (Liszt), plus more.

All seats are $10 each. Proceeds will benefit UT’s effort to become an all-Steinway school.

A free reception and cash bar will follow the event.

For more information, call 419.530.2448.

“Nosferatu,” a 1922 German Expressionist horror film directed by F.W. Murnau, will be projected from 16mm film by the UT Department of Theatre and Film Friday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Room 1039. An unauthorized adaption of Bram Stoker’s Dracula, the 94-minute movie stars Max Schreck as Count Orlok. Stoker’s heirs sued Prana Film and a court ruling declared all copies of the film were to be destroyed. A few copies of “Nosferatu” survived, and the movie still wins accolades, with Rotten Tomatoes declaring it the second best-reviewed horror film of all time in 2015. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for students, UT employees and alumni, military members, and seniors 60 and older. Classic movies will be projected from film in December, February, March and April. For more information, call 419.530.2787 or go to utoledo.tix.com.
Three-peat: UT fraternity receives top honors

By Josephine Schreiber

For the third consecutive year, the Epsilon Epsilon chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) at The University of Toledo has received the Robert Adgar Smythe Award.

The Smythe Award is given to the top 10 percent out of the 220 chapters of the fraternity in the United States and Canada.

“The Robert Adgar Smythe Award is the highest award the international fraternity offers,” said Brandon Alves, executive board member of the Epsilon Epsilon chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha. “It is given to those chapters that show the utmost excellence in all areas of fraternity life, including academics, community service, philanthropy, athletics, campus involvement and recruitment.”

The fraternity has been honored with this award 10 times out of the last 14 years.

Alves believes the Epsilon Epsilon chapter was chosen because it continues to excel in a variety of areas.

“Our chapter was awarded this honor because our members continue to push our chapter to be better year in and year out,” Alves said. “Since I have been a member of PIKE my first semester freshman year, I have seen this chapter grow in every way possible.”

The fraternity is involved with RockeTHON, where members have been the top fundraising team for several years; UT’s club baseball team, which some of the members of PIKE founded; and the annual Fireman’s Challenge, which raises money for the Toledo Fire & Rescue Foundation.

“Giving back to the community is something that’s very important to us because we all consider ourselves blessed to attend such a fine institution as The University of Toledo,” Alves said. “Serving the community around us is our way to give thanks for allowing us to earn our education in such a great place and city.”

Student organizations to light bonfire, kindle friendships

By Carly Wiegand

UT students: Mark your calendars for an entertaining night and attend the first bonfire co-hosted by the Muslim Student Association, the Catholic Student Association, Hillel and International Student Association Thursday, Nov. 3, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Flatlands.

There will be plenty of games, popcorn, S’mores and refreshments.

This is a great opportunity to meet many students from other organizations, according to Reem Hajeir, president of the Muslim Student Association.

“We hope everyone leaves the event with new relationships and friendships with different members from each organization,” Hajeir said. “We wanted to bring these religious-focused organizations together to interact with the rest of the student body.”

For more information about the event, email the Muslim Student Association at u Toledo MSA@gmail.com.

Down by the river

Don Curtis, enterprise application automation developer, left, and Mike Cassidy walked down the new path by the Ottawa River. The gravel trail, which extends from the Law Center to Secor Road, was dedicated Oct. 27 by the President’s Commission on the River. Curtis represents staff on the commission, and Cassidy is a community member for the group. The pathway was constructed thanks to the Student Green Fund.
The number of University of Toledo students choosing to major in political science jumped 23 percent during this election year.

This semester 113 UT students are majoring in political science as a primary major, non-primary major or secondary major. That is up from 92 students a year ago. A total of 98 undergraduates chose political science as their primary major in 2016, compared to 83 last year.

“I’m sure the high level of interest in the presidential election has been part of it,” Dr. Sam Nelson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, said. “I’m really pleased with the increase and proud of what we’ve been doing to offer an improved and more student-focused program.”

After recognizing a growing interest in global affairs, the department chose to offer more courses in international politics and American politics.

The department held two presidential debate watch events this fall for students to discuss the faceoffs between Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump. Faculty also added a film series and speaker series.

“The study of campaigns, political parties and public opinion has reached a fever pitch in this election,” Nelson said. “The randomness of the race has kept us all on our toes, and the analysis of the results will make this area of study very exciting for the foreseeable future.”

Freshman Kyle Zapadka wants to be a lawyer. He chose to attend UT because of the 3+3 program that allows students to earn both a bachelor of arts degree and a law degree in six years instead of seven.

“I chose political science because this gives me the connections I need if I want to stay in the Toledo area,” Zapadka said. “I first became interested in politics during the Obama-McCain presidential election and have remained active as a Republican.”

Senior Lucy Frank, who majors in political science and minors in French, wants to work in logistics or schedule planning for a politician after graduation.

“Throughout my time at UT, the Political Science Department has been growing,” Frank said. “UT gave me the opportunity to intern in the Toledo mayor’s office. I also interned for the Ohio Democratic Party in Philadelphia for the Democratic National Convention. It has been a fun ride, and I’m proud faculty members are growing the reputation of the program.”

Conference

continued from p. 1

future generations to ensure communities continue to have access to safe drinking water. They’re also studying the public health impact of exposure to Lake Erie algal toxins, such as the impact on a person’s liver.

Researchers and students protect the public drinking water supply for the greater Toledo area throughout summer algal bloom season by conducting water sampling to alert water treatment plant operators of any toxins heading toward the water intake.

UT’s 28-foot research vessel enables the University to partner with the city of Toledo and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to monitor the health of the lake and provide real-time data.

The UT Lake Erie Center is a research and educational facility focused on environmental conditions and aquatic resources in Maumee Bay and western Lake Erie as a model for the Great Lakes and aquatic ecosystems worldwide.
Researchers explore connection between kidney and heart disease

By Rebecca Schwan

Chronic kidney disease affects nearly 25 percent of the adult population in the United States. It is closely associated with cardiovascular disease and can lead to a patient requiring dialysis or kidney transplant.

Researchers at The University of Toledo are exploring the connection between the kidney and heart in an effort to understand the molecular mechanisms, which can help develop new treatments to improve patient outcomes.

A recent study titled “Attenuation of Na/K-ATPase Mediated Oxidant Amplification With pNaKtide Ameliorates Experimental Uremic Cardiomyopathy” was published in Scientific Reports earlier this month.

UT researchers, in collaboration with Marshall University and New York Medical College, identified a peptide that could reduce kidney disease-related cardiac fibrosis in mice, which could potentially lead to the development of new treatment options for patients diagnosed with kidney disease.

“We know patients with kidney disease often develop cardiac fibrosis, which is a condition where their heart tissue becomes damaged and scarred,” said Dr. Jiang Tian, associate professor of medicine and lead author of the study. “Cardiac fibrosis was previously thought to be untreatable, but this new discovery shows promise for reversing or preventing the condition.”

The research builds upon pioneering work by co-author Dr. Zijian Xie, director of the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, who discovered a new function of the Na/K-ATPase during his tenure at UT. Xie found that the Na/K-ATPase can mediate cell signaling in addition to its role in regulating the potassium and sodium level in each cell of the body.

The research team subsequently learned that dysfunction of kidneys signals the body to produce steroids that bind to the Na/K-ATPase, but that a long term “off-target” effect of this causes scarring to develop in the heart.

“We discovered that these sodium-potassium pumps don’t just move sodium and potassium around, but they are multitasking proteins that are involved in other functions as well,” said Dr. David Kennedy, assistant professor of medicine and co-author of the study. “It’s like finding out your car is a spaceship and you didn’t even know it.”

When the team introduced a peptide called pNaKtide in a mouse model with kidney disease, the associated cardiac fibrosis was reduced.

“We are excited about these findings and will further explore the possibility to use this peptide as a therapeutic treatment for cardiac fibrosis,” Tian said.

In a related UT study, Dr. Steven Haller, assistant professor of medicine discovered use of the immunosuppressant drug Rapamycin also helps in reducing cardiac fibrosis in animal models with kidney disease.

“Given that we now know Na/K-ATPase signaling is known to initiate events that lead to cardiac fibrosis, we can look at ways to interrupt this sequence,” Haller said. “Rapamycin inhibits an enzyme implicated in the progression of many different forms of kidney disease, and we now know it also regulates a pro-fibrotic steroid, which binds the Na/K-ATPase and causes fibrosis.”

The study, “Rapamycin Attenuates Cardiac Fibrosis in Experimental Uremic Cardiomyopathy by Reducing Marinobufagenin Levels and Inhibiting Downstream Pro-Fibrotic Signaling,” was published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

Baby names

continued from p. 1

similar to a previous trend, like Chloe, Claire and Katie.”

Chloe, Claire, Emma, Grace, Ella, Bailey and Mia are in a cluster riding a current wave.

“Emma, Ella and Grace experienced some fame about 100 years ago, then went silent and suddenly peaked after 2000,” Mukherjee said. “However, Chloe and Bailey are the newbies. They are Generation Y, who are still small and about to enter school or have recently started school.”

Dorothy, Virginia, Betty, Margaret, Anna, Evelyn, Helen and Shirley started to rise in the 1880s and experienced a baby boom in the 1920s and 1930s. Anna and Evelyn recently experienced small resurgences.

The names Barbara, Linda, Mary and Patricia never go out of style.

“They are popular at all times for new parents, but were especially hot in the late 1940s and the 1950s,” Mukherjee said.

Mothers most commonly named their newborns Lisa, Amy, Laura or Jennifer in the 1970s.

In the 1950s, Carol, Debra and Sharon topped the charts.

However, names like Diana and Joan have had variability over the years. Diana was popular for newborns in the 1950s, decreased for a while and then surged in the 1990s. “Princess Diana’s influence, no doubt,” Chen said.

Of the most unique names during the 124-year span, the highest frequency occurred for Latony and Massa, which was no more than 100 newborns.

The team’s research continues. The next step is to predict future trends.

“If new parents turn back to tradition, the names of the 1970s or maybe even more from the 1920s could make a comeback,” Mukherjee said. “Or more expecting parents could turn to the less common and more one-of-a-kind route. We are working on that right now.”
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.

THE FUTURE OF THIS ENTIRE REGION IS VERY POSITIVE.

“We’ll have the opportunity to receive more research dollars so that we can provide healthcare services in a different way than we’ve done in the past.”

Billie Johnson
President & CEO, Area Office on Aging of NW Ohio, Inc.

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