President Sharen L. Gaber, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, center, and Donzaleigh Abernathy joined hands and sang “We Shall Overcome” during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration Jan. 16 in Savage Arena. Abernathy, award-winning actress and daughter of civil rights icon Ralph David Abernathy, gave the keynote address at the event, which was attended by about 1,800. She published a book about the friendship between her parents and the Kings titled “Partners to History: Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph David Abernathy and the Civil Rights Movement.” This year’s theme was “Reconciliation Through Service: Education, Social Justice and Religion.”

continued on p. 2

Reaching out

Sponsored by Toledo Excel and the UT Joint Committee, the conference for seventh- and eighth-graders, high school students, parents and the community will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. This year’s theme is “Expectations vs. Reality: Exploring Gender Roles in Society.”

Jemele Hill, co-host on ESPN2’s “His and Hers” with Michael Smith, is scheduled to take over as co-host of the 6 p.m. broadcast of “SportsCenter” next month. “SportsCenter” is the iconic show that established ESPN as a brand.

“Jemele Hill broke down barriers as a woman achieving at such a high level in the world of sports and sports media dominated by men,” David Young, director of the Toledo Excel Program, said. “She is a great role model for our students, and we are inspired by her perspective and passion. Jemele also shares a background that is familiar to many of our students, and attended Michigan State University on academic scholarship from a program that has similarities to Toledo Excel.”

For 28 years, Toledo Excel has provided college preparation and scholarships to underrepresented students, including African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans. Through services such as summer institutes, academic retreat weekends, campus visits and guidance through the admission process, students increase their self-esteem, cultural awareness and civic involvement.

“Our goal is to empower students to not set limitations on themselves when deciding on potential career choices,” Young said. “We want them to reconsider their ideas about stereotypically men’s and women’s careers. Jemele is a wonderful example of a successful individual who chose a career not typically thought of for her gender. She is flourishing.”

last year, Hill moderated President Barack Obama’s town hall discussion on race relations, justice, policing and equality that was broadcast on ABC and ESPN titled “The President and the People: A National Conversation.”

Before joining ESPN in 2006, Hill worked as a sports columnist in Orlando and Detroit. She began her career in 1997 as a general assignment sports reporter in Raleigh, N.C.

A native of Detroit, Hill graduated from Michigan State University in 1997 with a degree in journalism and a minor in Spanish.

After Hill’s keynote address at the conference, breakout sessions for parents and students will be held to discuss career obstacles and how others have overcome the obstacles.

“We want to empower families to view options in the workplace as unlimited,” Young said.

continued on p. 2

Ecologist elected Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science

A University of Toledo ecologist is being honored for her work to advance science as a newly elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Dr. Carol Stepien, Distinguished University Professor of Ecology, is among the 391 AAAS Fellows elected in 2016 who will be recognized at the association’s annual meeting Feb. 18 in Boston.

AAAS is the world’s largest multidisciplinary scientific and engineering society. Since 1874, it has elected Fellows to recognize members for their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

continued on p. 2
Fellow

continued from p. 1

“You are being honored for distinguished contributions to the fields of molecular evolutionary ecology and conservation genetics, particularly invasive and native populations, and mentorship of graduate and undergraduate students,” Rush D. Holt, AAAS chief executive officer, wrote in a letter to Stepien informing her of the recognition.

“I am honored to be recognized by our nation’s scientific community,” Stepien said. “My special emphasis has been helping to train and mentor UT graduate and undergraduate students, and our local high school students in aquatic ecology, to aid conservation efforts in the Great Lakes.”

Stepien is internationally recognized for her research in the areas of invasive species and fish genetics. She joined UT’s Department of Environmental Sciences in 2004 and also served as director of the Lake Erie Center until 2016. She was appointed a Distinguished University Professor in 2012.

“Recognition as an AAAS Fellow is an enormous honor and a credit to Dr. Stepien and her impressive body of research to advance our knowledge of marine biology,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “The University of Toledo is proud to have a faculty member selected to the AAAS and looks forward to more faculty receiving prestigious national awards.”

Stepien is on a leave of absence from the University while continuing her active research program and working with UT graduate students. She is serving as an Ocean Environment Research Division leader at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle.

She is the author of the book “Molecular Systematics of Fishes” published in 1997 and reprinted in 2002, as well as more than 90 scholarly publications. She has received more than $12 million in grants and awards for her studies of molecular ecology, population genetics, evolutionary patterns and genomics.

ESPN host

continued from p. 1

Toledo Excel is based in the Office of Multicultural Student Success, which is part of the Division of Student Affairs. The UT Joint Committee includes representatives from UT, Toledo Public and parochial schools, and civic and community leaders from the city of Toledo. The mission of the committee is to bring together people in the Toledo community interested in the education of underrepresented youth. The UT Joint Committee also serves as an advisory board and support system for Toledo Excel.

Make a reservation for the free, public conference by visiting utoledo.edu/success/excel or by calling 419.530.3820.
Celebrity Wait Night to raise funds for Eberly Center

By Anna Brogan-Knight

UT President Sharon L. Gaber, Provost Andrew Hsu, Toledo City Councilwoman Cecilia Adams and other local luminaries will welcome guests and support the Ninth Annual Celebrity Wait Night Thursday, Feb. 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Pinnacle, 1772 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee.

The Celebrity Wait Night is hosted by the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women and will feature a dinner served by local celebrities, as well as a silent auction, scholarship recipient acknowledgement, and live entertainment throughout the evening.

Tickets are $70 each or $600 for a table of 10. More than 400 guests are expected to attend the event. Proceeds will support the Eberly Center’s Women’s Success Resource that will benefit scholarship, but with programs that help keep them healthy, balanced and in school.”

UTC3 breakfast slated for Jan. 31

By Christine Wasserman

Thanks to 709 faculty, staff and retiree donors, The University of Toledo Community Charitable Campaign (UTC3) raised a total of $134,568.50 in pledges for nearly 220 nonprofit organizations.

To help celebrate the success of the 2016 campaign, each donor recently received an email invitation to a celebratory breakfast with President Sharon L. Gaber Tuesday, Jan. 31, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in Savage Arena’s Grogan Room on Main Campus.

Complimentary UT T-shirts also will be distributed at the breakfast, unless donors replied to the invitation requesting that their T-shirt be sent via interoffice mail because they could not attend the breakfast. Please contact vicki.riddick@utoledo.edu with any questions.

“Regardless of the size of your gift, thanks go to each and every UT donor who chose to ‘Simply Give’ and help the University exceed its $125,000 campaign goal,” said Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president for student affairs and the 2016 UTC3 chairperson. “Your generous support will serve those in need throughout 2017.”

Author/activist to discuss ‘Grappling With Cure’

Eli Clare will visit campus to give a talk Monday, Jan. 30, at 6 p.m. in Memorial Field House Room 1140.

“Eli Clare is unique in disability studies,” said Dr. Jim Ferris, Ability Center of Greater Toledo Endowed Chair in Disability Studies. “As an independent scholar and writer, he has been pushing the field’s thinking forward since the 1990s. His book, ‘Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness and Liberation,’ marked a turning point in the field, and Eli continues to be a beacon for those explicating what it means to be ‘other’ in a world of norms.”

Clare, who on his website identifies as “white, disabled and genderqueer,” will present a talk titled “Grappling With Cure.” He will use memoir, history and critical analysis to explore the ideology of cure: the deeply held belief that bodies and minds considered broken need to be fixed.

According to Clare, “Cure serves many purposes. It saves lives, manipulates lives, and prioritizes some lives over others. It provides comfort, makes profits, justifies violence, and promises resolution to body-mind loss.”

“Clare grapples with this knot of contradictions, maintaining that neither an anti-cure politics nor a pro-cure worldview can account for the messy, complex relationships we have with our body-minds,” Ferris said.

The stories he tells range widely, stretching from disability stereotypes to environmental activism, gender transition to skin lightening creams.

“Ultimately, he reveals cure to be an ideology grounded in the twin notions of normal and natural — slippery and powerful, necessary and damaging all at the same time,” Ferris, professor and chair of disability studies, said.

In addition to “Exile and Pride,” Clare is author of “The Marrow’s Telling: Words in Motion and Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling With Cure,” which will be released in February.

The free, public event is present by the UT Disability Studies Program.

For accommodations and further information, call the Disability Studies Program at 419.530.7245.
Campus community members: Enter business innovation competition by Feb. 27

By Bob Mackowiak

UT students, faculty and staff who have a great business idea may win up to $10,000 to help make that idea a reality in the seventh annual business innovation competition sponsored by the College of Business and Innovation. Entries are due Monday, Feb. 27.

“The first six years of the business competition were a remarkable success as the College of Business and Innovation received dozens of entries from across UT campuses,” said Dr. Sonny Ariss, chair and professor of management. “We are expecting another tremendous array of entries this year and trust the contest will continue to advance a creative culture of growth in all areas of the University.

“Evidence of the extensive appeal of this annual competition is found in the fact that the first-place winner of last year’s competition was a UT music major, Mackenzie Miller, who claimed the $10,000 prize for her custom trumpet business, Miller Handcraft,” Ariss noted.

Dr. Gary Insch, dean of the College of Business and Innovation, said, “This annual business plan competition truly reflects our emphasis on supporting innovation, fostering creative thinking, and nurturing the entrepreneurial environment that is so essential for the economic growth of this region.”

“Entrepreneurship is not only for people who want to start a business,” Ariss said. “Corporate America also looks for innovative thinking from their employees, so intrapreneurship within the corporate business structure remains important. This is demonstrated by the fact that the college continues to have corporate partners — Owens-Illinois, PNC Bank and Chuck and Ann Hodge — who contribute prize money for the winners of this competition.”

Ariss said competition entries must be submitted using Lean Launch Pad concepts, which enables people to develop their business model upon nine basic building blocks: customer segments, value propositions, channels, customer relationships, revenue streams, key resources, key activities, key partnerships and cost structure.

“As we have every year, the College of Business and Innovation is again ready to offer guidance to help these teams effectively implement their plans, emerge beyond the University, create jobs, and enhance area economic growth,” Ariss added.

There is no cost to enter the competition. Registration must be completed online. Winners must prove that they have formed an LLC or S Corp in order to receive a financial award.

The College of Business and Innovation is providing the following prize money:

- First place: $10,000 (sponsored by Owens-Illinois Inc.);
- Second place: $5,000 (sponsored by Chuck and Ann Hodge Business Plan Competition Fund);
- Third place: $2,000 (sponsored by PNC Bank); and
- Honorable mention: $500 (sponsored by PNC Bank).

The timeline for the 2017 competition is:

- Those planning to enter the competition are invited to attend a workshop session Monday, Feb. 6, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Savage & Associates Business Complex PNC Entrepreneurship Lab Room 3100.
- Entries must be submitted by Monday, Feb. 27.
- Finalists will be announced Friday, March 24.
- Finalists will make an oral presentation about their business using the business model canvas Thursday, April 13, between noon and 5:30 p.m. in the Savage & Associates Business Complex PNC Entrepreneurship Lab Room 3100.
- Winners will be announced Thursday, April 20.

The competition is open to all UT students, faculty and staff, while alumni can participate as a member of a team involving current students, faculty or staff.

To register or for more information, go to utoledo.edu/business.
Toledo will hold its 11th annual “Rockets for the Cure” Saturday, Jan. 28. Fans can purchase one ticket and catch two games in Savage Arena.

The men’s team will take on Northern Illinois at 2 p.m., and the women will play reigning Mid-American Conference West Division Champion Central Michigan at 4:30 p.m.

The MAC West Division showdown will help benefit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure of Northwest Ohio, The University of Toledo Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center, and the UT Center for Health and Successful Living. The Rockets encourage everyone in attendance to wear pink in support of cancer research.

The goal of “Rockets for the Cure” is to provide cancer education to the community, give encouragement to the survivors fighting and their families, celebrate the survivors who have won the fight, remember the ones that were less fortunate, and pack Savage Arena with 5,000 or more Rocket fans in pink.

Tickets — $10 for adults and $6 for youth — can be purchased online at utrockets.com, by calling 419.530.GOLD (4653) or at the UT Ticket Office. UT students are admitted free with ID, and University employees may purchase half-price tickets.

Groups of 15 or more may purchase tickets at the group rate of $7 per ticket prior to game day. The first 500 group tickets sold will receive a free “Rockets for the Cure” T-shirt. The group rate and free T-shirts can be redeemed when fans purchase 15 or more tickets at one time prior to game day and are based on availability. The ticket office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From when the doors open at 12:30 p.m. until the end of halftime, fans may take part in the silent auction on the West Concourse. All proceeds will benefit the UT Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center, Susan G. Komen Northwest Ohio, and the UT Center for Health and Successful Living.

The Rockets will again wear pink uniforms for the game. Guest emcee Chrys Peterson and the Rockets will hold a live jersey auction immediately following the contest. All proceeds will benefit the the UT Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center and Susan G. Komen Northwest Ohio.

For the third straight year, Head Coach Tricia Cullop has pledged to donate $25 for every Toledo free throw made and asks the Toledo community to do the same. To make a pledge, contact the Athletic Marketing Office at 419.530.2482 or make a pledge at the game. All proceeds will benefit the the UT Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center and Susan G. Komen Northwest Ohio.

Last season, the Rockets raised $11,016.96 for cancer research, marking the seventh straight season they collected at least $11,000. In addition, five of UT’s uniforms that were auctioned off after the contest went for more than $500, including a high of $800 for Ana Capotosto.

Rockets earn 3.202 grade point average; fifth-highest semester GPA in school history

By Paul Heldenbrand

University of Toledo student-athletes earned a combined grade point average of 3.202 in fall semester, the fifth-highest department semester GPA in school history. It is only the fifth time UT student-athletes have had a semester GPA above 3.2, and the 16th consecutive semester in which the Rockets earned a combined GPA of 3.1 or higher.

“Excellence in the classroom is what we’ve come to expect from our student-athletes, and this past semester was no exception” said Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien. “A department-wide GPA of over 3.2 is a great accomplishment for our student-athletes, and all those behind the scenes who support their efforts — parents, coaches, faculty, tutors and our student-athlete academic services staff.”

Individually, 37 student-athletes earned President’s List honors with a perfect 4.0 GPA, while more than 41 percent (154 of 374) earned a spot on the Dean’s List by garnering at least a 3.50 GPA, and more than 66 percent (249 of 374) achieved a 3.0 grade point average or better for the 2016 fall semester.

Fourteen of UT’s 16 varsity sports teams had combined GPAs of at least 3.0. Women’s soccer set the pace with a team GPA of 3.679. Women’s golf (3.672), women’s volleyball (3.556), women’s cross country (3.546) and men’s golf (3.512) also were above 3.5 as a team this past fall.
Creatively yours: UT art faculty showcase, discuss works

By Vicki L. Kroll

Headlines, the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, political rhetoric, family photographs and memories, technology and communication — these are some of the inspirations behind works created by UT Art Department faculty members.

Check out the faculty exhibition that is on display through Friday, Feb. 10, in the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery on UT’s Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

“The exhibition features a wide range of visual practices, spanning all genres and media,” said Brian Carpenter, UT gallery director and lecturer in the Art Department. “The 13 artists featured in the exhibit teach in the areas of painting, sculpture, graphic design, art history, printmaking and photography.”

Creations by Chris Burnett, Jerod Christy, Debra Davis, Phil Hazard, Daniel Hernandez, Thomas Lingeman, Barbara WF Miner, Deborah Orloff, Mysoon Rizk, Karen Roderick-Lingeman, Arturo Rodriguez, Barry Whittaker and Eric Zeigler are in the spotlight.

A reception with the artists will be held Friday, Jan. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery.

In addition, several faculty members will discuss their creative processes Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. in the Toledo Museum of Art Little Theater. Those scheduled to speak are Lingeman, Miner, Orloff, Rodriguez, Whittaker and Zeigler.

“It’s always fascinating to hear artists discuss what leads to their creations,” Carpenter said.

Orloff will talk about “Threads” and “Elusive Memory.”

“Family photographs provide glimpses of the past and elicit memories, shaping narratives of personal history and identity,” she said. “Pictures reinforce recollections, but do we really remember our past, or have we simply absorbed personal photographs into fabricated memories and shaped our perspective accordingly?

“The connection between photography and memory is enigmatic, and my new artwork is a meditation on this dubious relationship.”

Whittaker will discuss his work titled “Idolatry,” a screen that sits atop an amplifier and shows images that change with the music.

“I like to image communication in its most fractured and disrupted forms,” he said. “Our inaccuracies travel across space and time. We’re only aware of our communication tools because of their failings and shortcomings.”

He added, “I believe that artwork should inspire dialogue between individuals or between a work and its audience. With that in mind, I experiment with technology and the structure of communication both as subjects and as processes.”

The free, public exhibit can be seen Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information on the exhibition or lectures, contact Carpenter at brian.carpenter@utoledo.edu.
Nationally renowned educator to speak Jan. 26 on Scott Park Campus

By Kim Goodin

The University of Toledo will host one of the country’s foremost experts in teaching education during a free “Diverse Teachers Matter” program Thursday, Jan. 26.

Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, premier pedagogical theorist and renowned teacher educator, will discuss the impact diverse teachers have on student populations, as well as the community’s importance in supporting teachers and contributing to increasing diversity in education.

The public program will begin at 7 p.m. in the Scott Park Campus Auditorium.

“You would be hard-pressed to find a more important educator in the U.S. today,” said Dr. Lynne Hamer, professor in the Judith Herb College of Education’s Educational Theory and Social Foundations Program and coordinator of Teach Toledo, the college’s degree program created to attract a diverse pool of students into higher education. “She has focused attention on the importance of explicit attention to racial and ethnic diversity, most importantly bringing ‘critical race theory,’ a theory developed in legal studies, into use in education. She also developed the concept of ‘culturally relevant pedagogy,’ introducing it in 1995 and continually applying it to modern teaching methodology.”

Ladson-Billings is the Kellner Family Distinguished Chair in Urban Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In December, she was elected to a four-year term as president of the National Academy of Education, which supports research for the advancement of education policy and practice. According to its website, members are invited from “a very select group of education experts from all over the world.”

Ladson-Billings is a 10-year member of the academy.

She also is past president of the American Educational Research Association and winner of the Brock International Prize in Education (2012), a monetary award honoring outstanding scholarship and research in education.

In January, Education Week’s “Straight Up” blogger Rick Hess named her the third most influential education scholar in the U.S.


“Anyone concerned about the equity and quality in schools” is welcome to attend the event, Hamer said. “For education to be an equitable system, and for students to have a quality education that prepares them as citizens in a diverse society, teachers need to mirror the larger population in terms of diversity.”

“Diverse Teachers Matter” is sponsored by the Judith Herb College of Education, UT’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Toledo Public Schools. It is one of several events offered by the College of Education to commemorate its 100th year.

For more information, email lynne.hamer@utoledo.edu or call 419.530.6126.
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
KICK OFF LUNCHEON

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
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