President to give address April 5

University of Toledo students, faculty, staff, alumni and the public are invited to UT President Sharon L. Gaber’s state of the University address.

The event will take place Wednesday, April 5, at 3 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. An ice cream social will follow the address.

This marks Gaber’s first state of the University address since her arrival in July 2015.

“I look forward to reviewing the progress we have made over the last couple of years and outlining the direction we are moving in the future,” Gaber said. “The culture at UT is changing, and we can feel the excitement when we walk across our campuses. But we also face considerable challenges, and we have to address them head on. I need everyone – faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community – to join me in a commitment to continuing to build a stronger University.”

UTMC opens new Inpatient Detox Unit

The University of Toledo Medical Center is accepting patients to its new Adult Detoxification Inpatient Unit on the sixth floor of the hospital.

The 10-bed unit has a dedicated team of nurses, social workers and other staff with training and experience in detox and behavioral health. The detox unit will help patients safely manage the physical symptoms of withdrawal associated with stopping drug or alcohol abuse and then connect them with services to enhance their possibility for success in overcoming addiction.

“There is a drug abuse and overdose epidemic in our state, and UTMC is...
The University of Toledo partnered with ProMedica, Mercy Health and Bowling Green State University to form the collaborative regional organization called NextTech to help generate high-tech jobs by supporting startup companies.

Last week the Ohio Third Frontier Board awarded NextTech a $3.75 million grant as the Entrepreneurial Service Provider for northwest Ohio for 2017-18. With matching funds from all four partners, the total amount available for NextTech’s 18-county region will be $8.7 million.

The Entrepreneurial Services Provider program available through Ohio Third Frontier offers a network of entrepreneurial services and capital to help accelerate the growth of early stage Ohio technology companies. Ohio Third Frontier is part of Ohio Development Agencies.

The University of Toledo will continue to help researchers launch startup companies by providing space to work and access to potential investors, as well as connecting them with business advice and patent protection.

“The University of Toledo is proud to work together through this community partnership to build technology entrepreneurship in the region,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “As a research institution, the University is fostering and developing new ideas every day to make life better. From new medical devices and therapeutic medicines to advanced manufacturing innovations and software breakthroughs, our faculty and students are coming up with creative ways to solve problems, and we look forward to inspiring more commercial success stories through UT LaunchPad Incubation and our Technology Transfer Office.”

“As anchor institutions in our communities, we are wholly committed to investing in, growing, generating jobs, creating investment capital, and strengthening our region and Ohio by fostering inclusive technology entrepreneurship,” said Randy Oostra, ProMedica president and CEO. ProMedica is the lead applicant for the project.

NextTech will be focused on helping enhance connections to assets in the region as well as access to capital and talent in an inclusive environment, including women, minority and rural populations. One key initial area of focus for NextTech is to help ensure resources are concentrated on high-potential companies that have critical business needs not currently being sufficiently addressed.

Each of the participating organizations brings an area of expertise to the project, and will have active roles in the delivery of technology commercialization services.

“This is an outstanding collaboration for northwest Ohio that will help to build a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region,” BGSU President Mary Ellen Mazey said. “We look forward to leveraging our strengths in education, arts and sciences, digital arts, computer science, and data sciences to launch new businesses.”

“As innovators in health care across northwest Ohio for 162 years, Mercy Health’s desire is to not only focus from a healthcare end in creating new technologies and opportunities, but also ensure the community as a whole benefits through job creation and positioning northwest Ohio for growth moving forward,” Dr. Imran Andrabi, president and CEO of Mercy Health, said. “Mercy Health is proud to collaborate with these organizations through the Entrepreneurial Services Provider program and work together for the benefit of all who live and work here.”

NextTech will be prepared to provide services, including institutional technology commercialization, venture development services and enterprise development services, as well as cross-cutting activities like branding and marketing support. Offering these services will help develop a diverse pool of entrepreneurial talent, attract venture capital firms and other investors, and help support and enable company operations.

“The vision for NextTech is to create an ecosystem which consistently generates high-tech, high-wage jobs and opportunity in northwest Ohio,” said Dr. John Pigott, chief innovation officer for ProMedica.

“The mission is to drive a technology-based startup environment through a broad and inclusive entrepreneurial community in northwest Ohio by providing intensive business commercialization services to prepare companies for funding and sustainability.”

Key agencies in the region, including the Toledo-Lucas Country Port Authority, Regional Growth Partnership, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Toledo Development Corp., are supportive of NextTech.
Big hearts evident at Big Event

More than 1,500 students gave back to the community by participating in the Big Event March 25.

Crews provided about 4,000 hours of service at 35 sites throughout Toledo.

The annual Big Event is the largest, one-day, student-run service project at the University when students come together to say “thank you” to the residents of Toledo, Bancroft Hills and Secor Gardens for their continual support throughout the years.

“The Big Event is a great way to let the Toledo community interact with our students and to see what a wonderful resource our students and UT are to the community,” said Dr. Page Armstrong, associate lecturer in the Jesup Scott Honors College and faculty adviser for the event.

Helping clear the dirt of rocks and debris for a garden at Nightingales Harvest Cancer Family Pantry and Resource Center were, from left, Krystal Nelson, Sofia Bianchi, Allison Cheevers and Natalie Oesch.

A.J. Fairchild rototilled a garden area for Nightingales Harvest Cancer Family Pantry and Resource Center.

RSVP for University Women’s Commission awards luncheon

The University Women’s Commission will hold its awards luncheon Wednesday, April 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Savage Arena Joe Grogan Room.

Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, dean of the College of Graduate Studies, will be the guest speaker. Her talk is titled “Oh the Places You’ll Go.”

Several employees will be honored with the Dr. Alice Skeens Outstanding Woman Award, and four students will receive scholarships.

The event is free for members of the University Women’s Commission and $15 for non-members.

To join the commission, the membership fee for one year is $25. Go to utoledo.edu/commissions/uwc.

All proceeds go toward the commission’s scholarship fund.

Those who attend the luncheon are asked to bring a donation of new or gently used professional clothing for the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women’s Kate’s Closet for a chance to win a designer wallet and gift cards.

RSVPs are requested by Wednesday, April 5, to utoledo.edu/commissions/uwc.

In memoriam

Melvin R. Nissen, Pemberville, Ohio, a former electronic technician at UT, died March 25 at age 87.
Assessment Day to be held April 5

By Ashley Diel

The Office of Assessment, Accreditation and Program Review and the University Assessment Committee will hold the fourth annual Assessment Day Wednesday, April 5, in Libbey Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Assessment Day will include a morning workshop, a lunch and keynote speaker, and an afternoon workshop presented by Dr. Tom Angelo, an internationally recognized expert and consultant on higher education teaching and learning.

Angelo will share his expertise on classroom assessment, fostering creative thinking and in-depth learning. He is a clinical professor of educational research and innovation at the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy in Chapel Hill.

Topics for the morning workshop will focus on helping faculty and staff design effective undergraduate courses to promote student learning, while the afternoon session will offer an introduction to classroom assessment and how it can help students become more independent and effective learners, said Alana Malik, university assessment director.

The morning workshop will run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; the afternoon workshop will run from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

“Both workshops will provide attendees with practical, research-based strategies to help them improve their teaching skills,” Malik said.

Lunch will be provided from noon to 1:30 p.m. with a keynote address from Angelo on the topic of fostering creative thinking and innovation.

The free events are open to all UT faculty, administrators and students.

Angelo has consulted on teaching and learning improvement, assessment and curriculum design for more than 250 educational institutions and 65 associations and organization in all 50 states and 18 countries.

He has delivered more than 90 higher education conference keynotes and authored or co-authored four books and more than three dozen articles and chapters.

Those who wish to attend the events should sign up at utoledo.edu/aapr/webforms/2017AssessmentDay.html.

Faculty, staff submit nearly 150 budget suggestions

By Christine Billau

From employee layoffs to turning off the lights at night, University of Toledo faculty and staff submitted nearly 150 budget suggestions throughout March in response to President Sharon L. Gaber’s request for ideas as the University works to find new and realistic ways to balance the budget.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich’s proposed budget for next year calls for a 1 percent increase in state support for instruction (SSI), while other legislators have proposed a 0 percent increase in SSI. The proposed budget also includes another two-year tuition freeze and a program that would force the University to pay for textbooks, an estimated new annual cost of more than $13.5 million to UT.

“Thank you for your help and understanding as we analyze the serious operating budget challenges that the state’s proposed budget creates for UT as we begin the fiscal year July 1,” Gaber said. “We are in this together, and your thoughtful consideration of our financial reality will play a big role in how we move forward in choosing effective ways to reduce expenses, enhance revenue and increase efficiency while continuing to provide and strengthen the quality of education we offer to our students.”

Inpatient Detox Unit

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responding with this dedicated unit as part of our increased focus on behavioral health. We want to help people in our community who suffer from addiction,” said Dr. Tanvir Singh, UTMC psychiatrist who serves as the unit’s medical director. “Addiction is a brain disease just like any other chronic illness, but these patients also struggle with social stigma and marginalization, which makes it challenging. We need to both treat the disease and connect patients with the resources they need to overcome those challenges for successful recovery.”

Patients will be admitted to the detox unit through referrals from other units within UTMC and through health-care providers in the community, as well as patients and their family members who contact the hospital directly for detox assistance.

Patients must be in active withdrawal from alcohol, opioids or other substances when they are admitted to the UTMC detox unit and commit to immediately entering an intensive outpatient treatment program following their stay in the hospital, which would average three to five days.

UTMC also plans to include individual talk therapy, group therapy, social work visits, physical exercise, mental exercise, and nutrition and self-care classes with community partners as part of its services in the detox unit to address the patients’ medical and psychological needs.

For more information, call 419.383.2337.

LGBTQA+

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“We want all of our patients at The University of Toledo Medical Center to be in an environment that is welcoming and supports the overall healing and recovery process,” Dan Barbee, chief executive officer of UTMC, said. “To achieve this, we believe that patients, their families and loved ones need to be in a nonjudgmental setting that promotes acceptance and allows a person to feel safe and protected to be their true self.”

UTMC is the only medical facility in northwest Ohio to earn this distinction and one of only 302 nationwide.

The designation was recently reported in the 10th edition of the Healthcare Equality Index, reflecting on a decade of progress in LGBTQA+ health care.

The Healthcare Equality Index is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, America’s largest civil rights organization working to achieve LGBTQA+ equality. The annual survey consists of questions that determine whether a hospital meets the core requirements to become a leader.

A record 590 health-care facilities actively participated in the 2017 survey. In addition to active survey participants, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation proactively researched key policies at more than 900 nonparticipating hospitals. Of all those included in the index, 302 earned a “Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality” designation.
Seventeen UT students will present their projects at the 31st Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Memphis Thursday through Saturday, April 6-8.

These projects by UT students were chosen from more than 4,000 submissions.

“The abstracts by the UT students demonstrate a unique contribution to their field of study, providing them the opportunity to present their work to their peers, faculty and staff from all over the nation,” said Dr. Thomas Kvale, professor emeritus of physics and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Branden Austin and Blen Keneni, students in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department in the College of Engineering, will present “Frequency Spectrum Sharing and Priority Assignment in Communication Systems” at the conference.

With a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant, the two worked last summer and fall on a project with Dr. Vijaya Kumar Devabhaktuni, professor of electrical engineering, as their adviser.

The purpose of their project was to build an educational prototype for attracting high school seniors and college students to pursue university degrees.

“The prototype entails demonstrable hardware and software comprised of a set of communication nodes with call priorities, which are used to help educate students on future and practical implications of spectrum sharing,” Devabhaktuni said.

“Two objectives are achieved by building this hands-on prototype: Students learn firsthand the basics of communication systems, and they are taught the concept and feasibility of ‘priority’ in radio frequency device communication.”

Devabhaktuni said this research experience provided the students with techniques beneficial in their future endeavors: hardware and software design, collaborative research skills, and time and project management.

Keneni is pursuing a master’s degree in electrical engineering; she graduated with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in December. She was a senior while working on this research project.

Austin is a senior undergraduate dual major in electrical and computer science engineering.

“What I liked about this research is the freedom it gave me to be creative while it challenged my engineering skills,” Keneni said. “It gave me the opportunity to have a detailed understanding of topics related to communication, radio frequency devices, as well as hardware and software design.”

Keneni added, “This undergraduate research can be used to teach students about communication systems, and it will be a great project to present during job interviews.”

“The best part of the research for me is getting to work on challenging projects that make a difference,” Austin said. “It was great to work on a project applicable to teaching students about current and emerging technology. I gained valuable contacts in both academia and industry through research.”

“This, and being selected to present our research at a national conference, opens up doors for both grad school and future employment,” he said.

Other UT students who will present their work at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, the titles of their abstracts, and faculty advisers are:

- Quinton Babcock, “Lake Erie Water Quality Survey, A Natural Treatment Option to Reduce Harmful Algal Blooms,” Dr. Kevin Egan, associate professor of economics;
- Sanskar Basnet, “Beam-Foil Measurement of the Lifetime of Ge II 4s2 4d 2D3/2 Level,” Dr. Richard Irving, research assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy;
- Emily Grubbs, “Women’s Involvement in the Inside Out Prison Exchange Program,” Dr. Jerry Van Hoy, associate professor of sociology;
- Wonhee Kim and Kee Yong Hong, “Collaboration Art Beyond Culture,” Daniel Thobias, assistant professor of art;
- Jay Kumar, “The Effect of Nicotine on Ovarian Cancer Cells,” Dr. Deborah Chadee, associate professor of biological sciences;
- Dalal Mahmoud, “Impact of Microcystin on Pre-Existing Liver Disease,” Dr. David Kennedy, assistant professor of medicine;
- Batool Mehdi, “Regulation of MLK3 in Ovarian Cancer Cells,” Chadee;
- Zehra Mehdi, “The Role Maternal Reminiscing Style Plays in the Accuracy of Child Reports,” Dr. Kamala London Newton, associate professor of psychology, and Monica Lawson, graduate student in experimental and developmental psychology;
- Megan Post, “Study of Furoxans in a Murine Model of Ischemic Stroke,” Dr. Isaac Schiefer, assistant professor of medicinal and biological chemistry;
- Taylor Robbins, “Comparing the Articulatory Kinematics and Acoustic Vowel Space Between Healthy and Apraxic Speakers,” Dr. Caroline Menezes, associate professor of speech-language pathology;
- Michaela Roberts, “Centriole Remodeling and Poc1 Enrichment in Drosophila Melanogaster,” Dr. Tomer Avidor-Reiss, associate professor of biological sciences;
- Olivia Sagan, “Regulation of MLK Kinases in Ovarian Cancer Cells,” Chadee;
- Shannon Saluga, “Photoredox Catalysts and Their Applications in Organic Synthesis,” Dr. Wei Li, assistant professor of chemistry;
- Nadeen Sarsour, “Prenatal Androgen Exposure in Adult Female Wistar Rats,” Jennifer W. Hill, associate professor of physiology and pharmacology; and
- Raj Thomas, “Investigating the Role of MLK3 in Mitotic Progression of Ovarian Cancer Cells,” Chadee.
Track/cross country runner honored for perseverance, returning to action

By Paul Helgren

UT junior Janelle Noe has been named the 2017 recipient of the Chuck Ealey College Undefeated Spirit Award.

Noe

Noe becomes the 10th winner and the first track and field/cross country athlete to collect the prestigious award, which was presented at Songfest April 1 in Savage Arena. Noe also was honored at a high school award program with BCSN and Leadership Toledo April 2 in the Driscoll Alumni Center.

Founded in 2007, the Chuck Ealey Foundation presents the award to the student-athlete who best demonstrates the behaviors of living the undefeated spirit in her or his sport, in the classroom and in the community. Award winners are role models for making good choices and living with an undefeated spirit in everything that they do.

The award also recognizes that behind every person with an undefeated spirit, there are others around them who have instilled this spirit. Chuck Ealey was one of the greatest football players in UT history. A quarterback, Ealey led the Rockets to a perfect 35-0 record and three Mid-American Conference Championships from 1969 to 1971. His mother, Earline Ealey, is the inspiration behind the award. She lived her life with an undefeated spirit and instilled that attitude in Chuck. Chuck has been working to instill the same spirit into his family and everyone around him.

The foundation uses undefeated as an acronym, standing for undefeated, no negativity, determination/desire, encouragement/endurance, faith/focus/fortitude, equality, attitude/actions, tenacity, education, discipline.

Noe was a clear choice to receive this year’s award and is the epitome of what the award entails.

On Jan. 15, 2016, Noe suffered second- and third-degree burns on more than 50 percent of her body. After a long and strenuous recovery, Noe returned to competition in fall 2016. On Sept. 2, less than nine months after the incident, Noe competed for the UT women’s cross country team in the Toledo opener. She ran the 5K course in 18:21.4 to finish in 12th place.

Noe also competed in various meets during the Rockets’ indoor track and field season and has her sights set on the upcoming outdoor season.

In the classroom, Noe holds a 3.843 grade point average as an exercise science major.

The Undefeated Spirit Award has been presented annually at UT’s Songfest as a way to bring together student leaders and student-athletes.

UT professor

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‘Rockets for the Cure’ nets more than $10,000

By Brian DeBenedictis

 Toledo made yet another outstanding contribution to the Toledo Dana Cancer Center, Susan G. Komen Northwest Ohio and The University of Toledo Center for Health and Successful Living at its 11th annual “Rockets for the Cure” game Jan. 28.

The 2016-17 Mid-American Conference Champions raised $10,488 for cancer research, marking the eighth straight season the Rockets collected at least $10,000.

Former WTOL news anchor Chrys Peterson, the guest emcee for the ninth consecutive year, encouraged the 4,309 fans in attendance to take part in a silent auction and informed them about Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Most in the crowd wore pink, including many who donned “Rockets for the Cure” T-shirts.

The pink Nike jerseys that UT wore were made specially for that game against 2016-17 MAC regular-season champion Central Michigan. Nine of the uniforms that were auctioned off after the contest went for more than $500, including a high of $700 for sophomore Kaayla McIntyre and freshman Mariella Santucci.

IN THE PINK: Senior Janice Monakana was one of nine Rockets who had her uniform auctioned off for more than $500 after the game.
Graduating seniors are asked to complete First Destination Survey

By Cathy Zimmer

The University of Toledo in conjunction with its Center for Experiential Learning and Career Services is launching the spring semester First Destination Survey for graduating undergraduate seniors.

The brief online survey is for gathering employment and graduate school admissions data from new college graduates. This data will help UT complete the national ranking surveys and maintain its accreditation and certifications. The survey consists of less than 10 questions, most with drop-down responses making it fast and easy to complete.

Graduating seniors have four options to complete this survey:

- Visit utoledo.edu/success/celcs and click on survey link;
- Survey link online degree audit;
- Survey link emailed to student’s Rocket account; or
- Take in person at the UT Bookstore Grad Fair, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11 and 12, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“This year we are taking the survey to the Grad Fair, where students who complete the survey in person will receive a special one-of-a-kind alumni travel tumbler,” said Shelly Drouillard, director of the Center for Experiential Learning and Career Services.

The information collected will help to identify employer partnerships resulting in increased recruiting opportunities for Rocket grads and be extremely beneficial for career and academic advising and student recruitment initiatives.

The survey link will be emailed to students who have applied for spring graduation beginning in mid-April, but is available online now. The University of Toledo’s First Destination Survey is required to be completed, even if other program-specific surveys are administered at another time.

“The goal of the survey is to collect and report post-graduation status of newly graduated undergraduate Rockets from all colleges and majors,” Drouillard added. “Survey data will provide us with critical information necessary for institutional reporting, career and academic advising, and recruitment.”

The survey also helps the University to comply with the disclosure requirements under Title IV. Title IV requires institutions participating in financial aid programs to disclose specific information to all students regarding job placement.

Questions may be directed to Drouillard at shelly.drouillard@utoledo.edu or 419.530.7800.

Students to explore career possibilities at Careers in Science Day April 6

By Madison Vasko

As biology graduate students, Lilli Fishman, Christopher Arnst and Maisha Rashid learned a startling statistic. They discovered that, although most biology students list professor as their top career choice, only 8 percent of graduate students find a tenure-track faculty job after graduation.

In response, they founded the Careers in Science (CIS) Committee.

“Because most of us won’t wind up in academia, and yet we are exposed primarily to academia, we decided to found an organization to help us learn more about jobs outside of academia and what it takes to get them,” said Fishman, president of the CIS Committee. “Over the past three years, our committee has been committed to exposing science students, both grad and undergrad, to career paths outside of academic research.”

In conjunction with their mission, members of the CIS Committee, along with the Graduate Student Association and the Department of Biological Sciences, invite students and faculty studying science to attend the 2017 Careers in Science Day. The daylong event consists of a seminar, career fair and more.

“This event is specifically designed to teach students about potential jobs after graduation, and to help them establish professional goals and networks to get the jobs they want,” Arnst, vice president of the CIS Committee, explained. “For faculty, this is a unique opportunity to learn about what futures lie ahead of your students and to learn how to better prepare them for careers outside of academia.”

The seminar will be hosted by Dr. Gil Van Bokkelen, chairman and CEO of Athersys Inc., a biopharmaceutical company based in Cleveland. Van Bokkelen has a background in both science and entrepreneurship.

Arnst encouraged all students to attend, regardless of their career path: “Students attending the career fair should come with open minds and resumes. One of the most valuable things we have learned from past speakers is that networking pays off — whether you’re graduating tomorrow or in five years, you can make contacts now that may help you find a job after graduation.”

Networking from CIS career fairs has paid off for many students, as Fishman was proud to mention. Students who attended in previous years have been hired by companies they met at the career fair.

This year, several companies are slated to attend the fair; these include North American Science Associates Inc., Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Aerotek and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Careers in Science Day will be held Thursday, April 6, in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. The event will begin with an informal meet-and-greet at 9:15 a.m. A full itinerary can be found at utoledo.edu/nsm/boio/grad/careerexpo2017.html.

For more information, contact utoledocis@gmail.com.
Sometimes people aren’t aware of how their attitudes and beliefs operate below conscious level and affect their judgment or behavior. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion wants to change that and is sponsoring the Implicit Bias Speaker Series.

“Implicit bias refers to the unconscious attitudes we have about people that, left unchecked, can lead to prejudice and discrimination,” Jennifer Pizio, associate director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, said. “By learning about these biases and making the implicit explicit, we can change our attitudes and help create a more diverse and inclusive environment.”

Ari Melber, MSNBC chief legal correspondent, will kick off the series Thursday, April 6. He will give a talk on “Bias in a Post-Truth Era” at 5 p.m. in Doermann Theater.

“There’s nothing new about bias distorting our view of the world, but are polarized politics and selective information making bias worse? What can we learn from social science and legal training to combat our own biases? I’m hoping to tackle those questions in this program,” Melber said.

Listed by date, other topics and speakers in the series are:

- Thursday, April 13 — “Unconscious Bias and Its Impact on the Patient-Clinician Relationship” by Dr. Adil Haider, surgeon and Kessler Director of the Center for Surgery and Public Health at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, at 4 p.m. in Collier Building Room 1000B.
- Tuesday, April 18 — “Discrimination, Subtle Bias and Inequalities in the Workplace: In the Name of Meritocracy” by Dr. Leanne Son Hing, associate chair of psychology at the University of Guelph in Ontario, at 5 p.m. in Thompson Student Union Room 2584.
- Wednesday, April 26 — “Unconscious Racial Bias in Health Care and in Medical School Admission” by Dr. Quinn Capers IV, associate dean for admissions at Ohio State University College of Medicine, at 4 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 110.

For more information on the free, public talks, contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 419.530.2260.

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Have you ever considered the everyday challenges people with disabilities face? Enjie Hall, director of campus accessibility and student disability services, Dr. Jim Ferris, professor and Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies, and Katie Shelley, UT graduate student, will shed some light on the stigmas associated with disabilities and the way people view various disabilities during this free program. Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in an open conversation with peers to better understand how to be more aware of differing perspectives and abilities, resulting in a more inclusive campus.

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APRIL'S DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY
Tuesday, April 4 • 6 p.m.
Thompson Student Union Room 2582