Engineering assistant professor receives prestigious research grant

By Paul Webb

A University of Toledo researcher has been awarded a grant to explore a new way to utilize light.

Dr. Yakov Lapitsky, assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, received one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious grants, the Career Award, to use light to control electrostatic interactions to form soft materials with intricate structures.

In addition to his investigation of the photo-directed assembly method, Lapitsky will develop guidelines for the process and research the best uses of the method.

“These materials form through electrostatic interactions by mixing positive and negative charges. The molecules come together to form a solid complex, and we can direct their formation with the use of light,” Lapitsky said. “The goal is to develop strategies for microfabrication. This can be used to make customized vehicles for smart drug delivery or used to make sensors and actuators for soft micro-machines.”

To do this work, Lapitsky received a National Science Foundation Career Award of nearly $402,000 over five years.

“This project has three objectives. First, we will investigate photo-directed assembly of polyelectrolytes as a method for preparing intricate supramolecular structures. We also will dissect the photo-directed assembly process with the view of developing guidelines for controlling materials structure and stimulus sensitivity. Lastly, we will exploit the stimulus-responsive properties of photo-patterned polyelectrolyte complexes to prepare micron-scale controlled release

LAB WORK: Dr. Yakov Lapitsky reloaded an isothermal titration calorimeter to characterize the molecular interactions of polyelectrolytes.

Women’s soccer player to represent Colombia in Summer Olympics

By Brian DeBenedictis

UT women’s soccer player Natalia Gaitán is gearing up for another action-packed summer squaring off against the best competition in the world.

The Bogota, Colombia, native will represent her home country in the Summer Olympics from July 25 through Aug. 11 in London. It will be the first Olympic appearance for the Colombia women’s soccer team.

Gaitán, who will be a senior in the fall, is in the process of wrapping up her spring semester at UT and will fly home Friday, May 4. The following day, she will begin training with her national teammates in preparation for London and the XXXth Olympiad. The squad is expected to train together for the ensuing three weeks, take a weeklong break, then reconvene for three more weeks of practice before leaving for London.

The three-year soccer letterwinner is one of four current NCAA Division I student-athletes on the Colombia national team roster, which includes Austin Peay’s Tatiana Ariza, Indiana’s Orianica Velasquez and Kansas’ Liana Salazar.

Colombia, which will field one of 12 women’s soccer teams in the Summer Olympics, will find out its draw Tuesday, April 24. They qualified for the showcase event by reaching the finals of the 2010 South American Women’s Soccer Championships in Gaitán’s hometown.

Due to an intense schedule, the soccer competition kicks off two days before the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games with the first group matches. The competition will begin with a group stage. The teams will be divided into groups of four, and the best
Search committee established for permanent Languages, Literature and Social Sciences dean

By Jon Strunk

The Office of the Provost has announced a search for a second founding dean of the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. The concept of the founding dean is a two-year appointment to the new college.

Applications consisting of a cover letter and curriculum vita are due by the end of business Tuesday, May 1, to the Office of the Provost. A full position description is available at http://utole.do/lissdean.

“The loss of the college’s founding dean, Dr. Alice Skeens, early in her term means that much of the college’s strategic direction has yet to be fully established and mapped out,” said Dr. William McMillen, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

“The College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences is at the very core of what a comprehensive college education imparts to students, and I have no doubt that among our faculty is a leader who can continue to build upon the college’s early successes and accomplishments,” McMillen said.

Lee Pizzimenti, professor of law and associate dean of students in the College of Law, will chair the search committee. Other committee members are:

- Dr. Tom Barden, dean of the UT Honors College;
- Dr. Rupali Chandar, associate professor of astronomy;
- Dr. Willie McKether, assistant professor of anthropology;
- Dr. Douglas Leaman, professor and chair of biological sciences; and
- Karen Gallagher, PhD student in the Spatially Integrated Social Sciences Program in the Department of Geography and Planning.

McMillen noted in a letter to the committee that this search is being conducted in a similar manner to the searches conducted in fall 2010 that resulted in the appointment of the first deans of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences — namely a search over a very short time span with a committee consisting of faculty members, faculty administrators and a student.

McMillen asked the committee to recommend three candidates so that he could put forward those names to UT President Lloyd Jacobs.

Dr. Jamie Barlowe has been serving as interim dean of the college since Skeens passed away in November.

Research grant

continued from p. 1

highly on the quality of the college’s research and educational programs and the ability to attract the highest caliber faculty.”

Lapitsky’s research also will be integrated with educational outreach. Along with sponsoring undergraduate and graduate research in the field, he will introduce high school students to these methods through the Engineer for a Day and Toledo Excel programs that are offered to Toledo Public Schools.

“The National Science Foundation’s mission is to support scientific research and education,” Lapitsky said. “I am happy to have the opportunity to share our work with young people who are interested in science.”

In memoriam

Dorothy J. Derrick, Holland, Ohio, a longtime MCO employee who helped set up Mulford Library, the bookstore and the Visual Education Department, died April 8 at age 79. She was hired as an administrative assistant in the library in 1968 and retired from MCO in 1993.

Thelma T. Krueger, Toledo, a former UT employee who worked in the College of Education, died April 17 at age 93.

Edward F. Lark, Toledo, a maintenance repair worker with UT’s Physical Plant from 1976 until his retirement in 1988, died April 14 at age 91.

Corean Myers, Toledo, died April 6 at age 86. She began working at MCO as a hospital aide in Surgical Intensive Care in 1969 and retired in 1991.

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New recognition cords to be awarded at commencement

A new tradition featuring red, white and blue and rainbow colors will begin at this year’s spring commencement ceremonies.

Graduates who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces will be adorned with a red, white and blue military recognition cord honoring their distinguished service and sacrifices.

“It is really wonderful to see The University of Toledo take such an active interest in honoring its military students,” said Jennifer Hasenaur, president of UT Student Veterans of America.

Hasenaur brought the idea forward for consideration.

“The Student Veterans of America is pleased to see this new tradition of a military recognition cord be immediately adopted by the UT administration,” she said.

“The Military Service Center is proud to be recognizing our graduating veterans and active military in this distinguished way,” said Beth Gerasimiek, director of educational services in the College of Adult and Lifelong Learning. “It is great to see students bring their ideas to the table and see it through to implementation. I commend UT’s Student Veterans of America for their efforts.”

Students graduating this semester who are eligible to receive a cord should bring their graduation notification letters and proof of service to the Military Service Center. For more information, call or email the Military Service Center at 419.530.1392 or msc@utoledo.edu.

Multihued cords and tassels will be available to graduating students who RSVP and attend the Rainbow Graduation Recognition Program, which will take place Friday, May 4, at 6 p.m., in Student Union Room 2582.

“The Office of Multicultural Student Success and LGBTQ Initiatives are excited to invite students to participate in the Rainbow Graduation Recognition Program to celebrate their accomplishments with pride,” said Fatima Pervaiz, program coordinator with the Office of Multicultural Student Success. “This event will be a safe and affirming environment for all students, especially lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and straight allies.”

Students who graduated in the fall or will graduate in spring or summer are eligible to attend the Rainbow Graduation Recognition Program.

The deadline to RSVP for the event is Wednesday, April 25, to LGBTQA@utoledo.edu.

UT employees may schedule graduate photos

Faculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from UT this semester may contact the University Communications Office if they wish to have a photo taken and published in UT News.

Call Laurie Flowers at 419.530.2002 to schedule an appointment before Friday, May 4.

Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

Cultural appreciation

A henna tattoo demonstration also was part of the event, which was sponsored by the UT student organization Arabesque and the UT Arabic Program.

National Geographic Society

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That publication saw an explosion of subscriptions in the early 2000s with about 10 million subscribers today.

The society offers internships in photography and geography.

“Yujin’s earned the right to have this experience,” said Dr. David Nemeth, UT professor of geography and one of Lee’s advisers. “Only about 700 geography undergraduate students have participated in the internship program since it was founded, so she’s part of a fortunate few.”

Lee, a native of Bucheon, South Korea, said she is looking forward to her time in Washington, D.C., since she has only visited the nation’s capital once as a freshman for a geography conference.

“I’m very excited to go,” she said. “I know I couldn’t do this internship without help from Dr. Nemeth, Dr. Bhuiyan Alam, assistant professor of geography, and Dr. Beth Schlemper, assistant professor of geography, and I am very grateful to them.”

Lee said the internship experience will use her skills from her program at UT, where her concentration is geographic information science (GIS).

“This may be assigned or maybe even volunteer to work in the museum as a researcher, or even use her specialized skills from working in our GIS lab in her internship,” Nemeth said. “Our department at UT can boast two National Geographic interns, while many universities have none.”

The Geography and Planning Department last sent a student intern to the National Geographic Society in 1996; Julie Ward wrote her master’s thesis on her experience.

Sixth annual address to the community

By Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president of The University of Toledo

Thursday, Sept. 13, at 11 a.m.
Doermann Theater
Rupperts recognized with Distinguished Volunteer Award

By Meghan Cunningham

Drs. Richard D. and Elizabeth S. Ruppert helped shape health-care education in northwest Ohio and devoted their time to improving the community.

Richard Ruppert served as the third president of the former Medical College of Ohio from 1977 to 1993, and led expansive growth of the campus, student body, research funding and patient-care programs.

Elizabeth Ruppert, while MCO professor of pediatrics from 1977 to 2003, was an advocate for health services for both children and mothers in her efforts to improve birth outcomes.

For all of their efforts to advance the health and well-being of the greater Toledo area, the Rupperts were awarded the Ashel Bryan Distinguished Volunteer Award.

“The Rupperts have been tremendous supporters of medical education in Toledo and have gone beyond the important work of educating future health-care professionals to enhance community organizations that help people get access to the care they need,” said Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor, executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

The Distinguished Volunteer Award is named for Bryan, former chair of the MCO Board of Trustees and well-known local businessman and philanthropist. Bryan and his wife, Dorothy, were longtime supporters of the Health Science Campus; their generosity provided an infusion center and supported renovations to the pharmacy, a boardroom and a student lounge, as well as a number of scholarship and endowments.

Richard Ruppert, who had the longest tenure of any former MCO president, was honored in 1993 when the $11 million outpatient facility, the Ruppert Health Center, was named for him. During his career, he also served as vice chancellor for health affairs for the Ohio Board of Regents and as president of the Ohio Society of Internal Medicine and American Society of Internal Medicine.

Involved in civic activities as well, he served as chair of a United Way of Greater Toledo fund drive, was a member of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and was president of the Ohio Historical Society.

Elizabeth Ruppert began her medical practice as a neonatologist. In addition to her contributing to the education of hundreds of medical students at MCO, she served in the developmental and behavioral pediatrics and ambulatory pediatrics departments.

She helped establish the EduCare Center and the Prescribed Pediatric Center to provide early services and support for families with children with special health-care needs. Elizabeth Ruppert also was a founding member of the Lucas County Initiative to Improve Birth Outcomes.

Professor emeritus selected for distinguished historian award

By Nicolette Jett

Dr. Alfred Cave, UT professor emeritus of history, was selected the 2012 Distinguished Historian for the Ohio Academy of History Spring Conference and Business Meeting held last month at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus.

Cave delivered the Distinguished Historian Lecture, “Why the _____ Would Anybody Study History? A Comment on a Quip,” at the meeting, which brings together teachers, scholars, public historians and students interested in history.

“It is truly an honor to be chosen for such a prestigious award,” Cave said. “I cannot express the immense gratitude I have for my fellow colleagues.”

He joined the University in 1973 when he was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; he served in that capacity until 1990.

Cave has mentored more than 75 UT students with their master’s theses and 20 with their dissertations as part of his commitment to the younger generations of scholars.

“The award is not something just chosen for great accomplishments done within the last year,” Cave said. “The award embodies all of the work and dedication in the field of history completed over a lifetime.”

A colleague who nominated Cave for the honor said, “Professor Cave is an example of a rare scholar who was able to deftly weave a career in academia as both a capable administrator and as a first-rate teacher and author.”

Cave received his bachelor’s degree from Linfield College and earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Florida. He has taught at the University of Florida, the City College of New York and the University of Utah. His scholarly works primarily focus on the Jacksonian era and American Indians.

He has published seven books, most recently Lethal Encounters: Indians and Englishmen in Colonial Virginia (2011), which earned Cave an award nomination from the Ohio Academy of History.
New class to be inducted into Medical Mission Hall of Fame April 28

The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Science’s Medical Mission Hall of Fame will induct its 10th class of honorees Saturday, April 28.

Toledoan Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, Dr. Harvey Doorenbos and Dr. Lincoln Nelson will be honored during a program in Collier Building Room 1000B on UT’s Health Science Campus beginning at 6 p.m. Admission to the program is free; reservations are not required.

Writer, photographer, explorer and cardiothoracic surgeon, Hussain has participated in medical and teaching missions for more than 40 years. He has traveled to the Dominican Republic, China, Libya, India and his native Pakistan, where he has taught a legion of medical students and doctors and has donated tons of supplies and equipment. The UT professor emeritus of thoracic cardiothoracic surgery is a graduate of Khyber Medical College in Peshawar, Pakistan. Proclaimed by the Journal of Islamic Medical Association to be a renaissance Muslim, he has treated those in need in foreign countries while making surgical and travel arrangements for complex procedures to be performed in Toledo. A member of the UT Board of Trustees, Hussain has a professorship in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery named in his honor at the University. The inventor of two surgical devices — the pleuro-peritoneal shunt and a special endotracheal tube to supply oxygen during fiberoptic bronchoscopy in awake patients — he was recognized by Khyber Medical College with its first lifetime achievement award during its golden jubilee celebration.

Doorenbos of Holland, Mich., devoted 35 years of his life to medical missionary work — 10 years in the Sultanate of Oman and 25 years in Ethiopia. Appointed by the Reformed Church in America to those locations, the graduate of Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago performed general surgery as well as cataract and glaucoma procedures. He also was responsible for the construction of the permanent 80-bed Aina Hospital in Ethiopia that served an area with more than a million residents. After retiring in 1999 and until 2012, Doorenbos spent eight months every year volunteering in hospitals in Kenya, Sudan, Malawi, Liberia and India. An early leader of the Pan-African College of Christian Surgeons, he taught surgery in that organization’s official surgical residency training program for native physicians in Ethiopia and Cameroon until this year.

To be inducted posthumously, Nelson performed surgeries for 60 years and helped to start four hospitals in the Philippines, operating under his life motto, “Preach the Word and heal the sick” from Luke 9:2. An ordained minister, Nelson, who retired to Battle Creek, Mich., served with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. His work in establishing four hospitals resulted in the construction of more than 120 churches. A graduate of the medical school at the University of Buffalo, Nelson served during the Korean War as a naval surgeon in the Philippines and in Annapolis, Md. A recipient of the American Area and the World War II Victory medals, he authored With Christ in the Family and With Scalpel and the Sword about his medical missionary work. Following a paralyzing attack of meningal encephalitis suffered in 2006, he wrote The Other End of the Stethoscope, a record of his life as a patient.

The class of 2012 will join 31 prior recipients in receiving the honor.

Hussain and Doorenbos will be in attendance April 28; Nelson will be represented by his family.

Also to be recognized will be Dr. Patricia Metting, who will be presented with the Lawrence V. Conway Distinguished Service Award in honor of her support of the Medical Mission Hall of Fame and medical missionary work. Metting, vice chancellor and senior associate dean of student affairs in the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, works directly with students who participate in medical mission trips as part of their education. A professor of physiology and pharmacology, she earned her PhD in physiology from the former Medical College of Ohio in 1980 and a bachelor’s degree in individualized studies from UT in 1975. Metting was named as the College of Adult and Lifelong Learning’s Outstanding Alumni Award recipient in 2011.

Dr. Lawrence V. Conway, UT professor emeritus of finance, founded the Medical Mission Hall of Fame in 2004 to honor those individuals and/or organizations that have made significant and substantial contributions to advancing the medical well-being of people throughout the world. The Medical Mission Hall of Fame became an affiliate of UT’s College of Medicine and Life Sciences in 2006. A permanent home for the Medical Mission Hall of Fame was established in the atrium of the Center for Creative Education. Plaques honoring the Class of 2012 will be unveiled at a dessert reception following the program.

For more information, contact Dan Saevig, UT associate vice president for alumni relations, at 419.530.4008.

University to host Ohio IT conference May 9-11

Information technology professionals from colleges and universities across the state will participate in the 2012 Ohio Higher Education Computing Council Conference hosted by The University of Toledo.

The conference, “A Journey Beyond the Cloud,” will be held Wednesday through Friday, May 9-11, primarily in the Student Union and Stranahan Hall on UT’s Main Campus. The event will begin at noon in the Student Union Wednesday, May 9, with welcoming remarks from UT President Lloyd Jacobs and conclude 12:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, after the chief information officers’ panel discussions in the Toledo Hilton on Health Science Campus.

The Ohio Higher Education Computing Council Conference is a collaborative effort by higher education institutions that explores various challenges and successes affecting information technology professionals. The conference draws significant attendees annually from Ohio higher educational institutions.

“IT systems are constantly changing, and one of the best ways to prepare for change is to hold the Ohio Higher Education Computing Council Conference annually,” said Carol Lawrence, UT information technology administrative business manager. “The conference enables sponsors and other attendees to share their IT knowledge and wisdom and to develop ongoing relationships with other professionals.”

Conference highlights will include keynote speeches from Larry Singer, vice president of U.S. state and local government, education and public health-care sales at Hewlett-Packard; Dr. Clint Longenecker, UT professor of management and author of The Two-Minute Drill: Lessons for Rapid Organizational Improvement From America’s Greatest Game; and Dr. Maziin Yousif, a renowned cloud computing expert and chief enterprise architect and head of architecture at T-Systems International.

Presentations and sponsor booths will showcase IT trending topics in security, leadership/management, client services, and academic technologies and infrastructure.

“The conference gives companies the chance to share the latest technology and trends in regard to IT systems in educational institutions and business management,” Lawrence said.

The UT Ohio Higher Education Computing Council host committee members are Lawrence, Sherry Blosser, Jeff Coyne, Don Curtis, Chad Hrvnyak, Joe Kiel, Mike Lowry, Kevin Miller, Shirley Pawlowski, Bob Phillips and Wendy Johnson.

For more information, visit the Ohio Higher Education Computing Council 2012 website, u.toledo.edu/tohecc.
April is Occupational Therapy Month

By Stacey Dean

O ccupational therapy is a skilled profession that promotes health and well-being through meaningful activities. This outcome is achieved by educating people to do things that will enhance their abilities or by modifying their environments.

Occupational therapy is practiced in a wide range of settings, including hospitals, health centers, homes, workplaces, schools, reform institutions and housing for seniors.

Occupational therapists have diverse education and training that equip them with skills and knowledge through a multidisciplinary and holistic approach.

Clients are actively involved in the therapeutic process; this allows for interventions to not only address barriers due to impairments of body structure or function, but also social, psychological, neurological and cognitive challenges.

Here at The University of Toledo Medical Center, occupational therapy practitioners are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities in traumatic brain injury, stroke and spinal cord injuries.

Our team of occupational therapists and assistants work in the Coghlin Rehabilitation Unit (inpatient rehab), acute care and outpatient departments. Our outpatient department houses specialty programs, including hand therapy, lymphedema therapy, and the only hospital-based driver rehabilitation program in northwest Ohio that is licensed to complete on-the-road training in a specially modified car.

I don’t know if I chose occupational therapy or if the occupational therapy profession chose me. I have always had a strong-willed personality and a desire to make a difference in the lives of others. In occupational therapy, a clinician has to be inspirational and able to motivate a patient who may have lost hope for recovery. Seeing a patient re-gain independence is so rewarding that it helps to confirm my choice for becoming an occupational therapy assistant.

Dean is a certified occupational therapy assistant who works in the Coghlin Rehabilitation Center on Health Science Campus.

Driver Rehabilitation Program helps people get back behind the wheel

By Nicolette Jett

T he UT Medical Center Driver Rehabilitation Program is the only hospital-based one of its kind in northwest Ohio that is licensed to complete behind-the-wheel assessments in a specially modified car and train individuals with disabilities to return to driving with adaptations.

The clinical portion of the program began in 1994 at the hospital; within the last three years, it began offering road training. Last year, the program performed 100 behind-the-wheel evaluations and training for a varied group of individuals.

The goal of the rehabilitation is to help people maintain their independence through driving and determine if an individual’s health has affected his or her ability to drive safely. Occupational therapists working in the program are trained and certified to assess driving skills, make vehicle modification recommendations, and provide training work.

“It is difficult for most people to understand the feeling of being stuck in your home for hours at a time, dependent on others to take you to the simplest places,” said Sylvania Township resident Gail Heath, who was a patient of the Driver Rehabilitation Program. “What an amazing feeling it was to re-learn to drive with my adaptations and have my sense of independence back.”

Drivers are assessed for their capabilities to continue driving and for whether they have the abilities to learn to drive with or without adaptations.

After an initial assessment, the therapist may recommend the patient needs adaptive driving aids, which can include hand controls, special mirrors, or reduced-effort steering and braking systems. The therapist then trains the patient on how to use the driving aids in UTMC’s modified car.

“The most common diagnoses for patients in the program in 2011 included stroke, dementia, traumatic brain injury and Parkinson’s disease,” said James Kesler, occupational therapist and certified driver rehab specialist. “All patients receive the same thorough care through the process.”

Heath, who has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and lost muscle strength on her right side last year, complimented Kesler as “one of the most patient men I have ever encountered in my life. He never made me drive when I did not feel comfortable, but he still knew to push me past my limits in order to succeed,” she said.

“Our program works with state vocational rehab clinics and self-referred individuals with the goals to drive safely and successfully,” Kesler said. “Our job is not complete until we have given a sense of freedom back to every one of our patients.”

For more information on UT Medical Center’s Driver Rehabilitation Program and other rehabilitation services offered at the hospital, visit utmc.utoledo.edu/centers/rehab/outpatient.html.

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Rapper to perform April 26 concert in Rocky’s Attic

By Feliza Casano

Campus Activities and Programming will host up-and-coming rapper Kendrick Lamar for a concert Thursday, April 26, at 8 p.m. in Rocky’s Attic.

Lamar is touring with Drake and ASAP Rocky and was featured on Drake’s most recent disc, Take Care.

The show will open with K-Von the Great, a Cleveland artist influenced by Lamar, whose style is similar.

“Last year, we hosted comedian Ralphie May, and there was a lot of interest expressed among the students to have a different type of act, such as a musical act, since we had a comedy act already,” said Emilio Areas, director of live entertainment with Campus Activities and Programming. “Music Fest has had rock bands the past two years, so we thought students would enjoy a change of genre, too.”

Lamar, originally from Compton, Calif., initially performed under the name K. Dot. He has released a series of mix tapes that were well-received, and his first official album, Section.80, was released last year under Top Dawg Entertainment. In addition, he has appeared on tracks by hip-hop artists Big Pooh, Jay Rock, Tech N9ne and Game.

“It’s the first time we’re hosting an act associated with a big name,” Areas said. “Drake is one of the biggest hip-hop and rap acts right now. Usually, we host smaller and more local artists, so this will be different and a lot of fun.

“We wanted to make sure we weren’t conflicting with study time and also hold the concert a little earlier in the evening so students wouldn’t be out too late,” Areas said. “This will be one last great event for students before they depart for the summer.”

The concert is free for students with their Rocket Cards; general admission is $5. Tickets will go on sale at 6 p.m. before the concert and will be first-come, first-served.

Doors open at 7:15 p.m., and the show will begin at 8 p.m.
Summer Olympics

continued from p. 1

By Nicolette Jett

eight teams will qualify for the quarterfinals. From there, the competitions are a knockout format. The two winning semifinalists will play for the gold medal at Wembley Stadium, with the two losing semifinalists facing off for the bronze.

The soccer competition at London will be staged at City of Coventry Stadium (Coventry), Hampden Park (Glasgow), Millennium Stadium (Cardiff), Old Trafford (Manchester), St James’ Park (Newcastle) and Wembley Stadium (London).

Gaitán possesses a wealth of national team experience. Last summer she served as a captain for Colombia at the 2011 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Germany.

She is coming off an outstanding 2011 fall campaign for the Midnight Blue and Gold. Gaitán was named second-team National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-Great Lakes Region, first-team All-Mid-American Conference and third-team NSCAA Scholar All-America.

Gaitán was an integral part of a Toledo defense that posted nine shutouts. She played every minute of 20 matches and finished fourth on the team with eight points (one goal, six assists), tied for fourth in the MAC in helpers.

The Rockets finished with a 14-7-2 overall mark, 9-1-1 in the conference. UT successfully defended its MAC regular-season championship and captured a league-record fourth tournament title, advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2008.

Celebrate Astronomy Day April 28

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Ritter Planetarium and the Toledo Astronomical Association will celebrate Astronomy Day Saturday, April 28, with a series of free, public shows on Main Campus.

“Astronomy Day is an effort by amateur and professional astronomers to reach out to as many people as possible to share information about the wonders of the universe around us,” said Dr. Michael Cushing, UT assistant professor of astronomy and director of Ritter Planetarium.

Free shows at 1, 3 and 5 p.m. will explore different aspects of the vast space beyond Earth’s atmosphere:

• 1 p.m. — Planetarium children’s program, “Zula Patrol: The Weather Down Under,” followed by presentation titled “From Disks to Exoplanets: A New Role for Ritter Observatory” by Dr. Karen Bjorkman, dean of the UT College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
• 3 p.m. — Planetarium program, “Two Small Pieces of Glass,” and presentation on “Cloudy With a 30 Percent Chance of Stars” by Dr. Tom Megeath, UT associate professor of astronomy.
• 5 p.m. — Planetarium program, “Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity,” and a talk on “A Separate Light — New Views of Galaxies Near and Far” by Dr. J.D. Smith, UT assistant professor of astronomy.

Meanwhile, from 7 to 9 p.m., the Toledo Astronomical Association will have telescopes outside the planetarium for solar and astronomical viewing by the public, weather permitting.

For more information about the Toledo Astronomical Association and its Astronomy Day efforts, contact Frank Merritt at frank.merritt@utoledo.edu.
Advanced Leadership Academy enhances skills of UT students

By Bob Mackowiak

Santosh Pant, a PhD candidate in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, put in some extra Saturday class time at UT this semester. It didn’t have anything to do with the mechanical intricacies of engineering, but it had everything to do with building an outstanding career in his chosen field.

Pant and about 50 other UT graduate students in business, law, engineering, pharmacy and education participated in the annual Advanced Leadership Academy, presented by the College of Business and Innovation.

“Being a graduate and international student, the Advanced Leadership Academy was a great learning experience for me,” Pant said. “Successful and distinguished personalities in different fields taught how to be a leader, how to cope with problems, and move toward success.”

“We truly appreciate the opportunity to pull graduate leaders together from across our campus to learn from each other about the importance of leadership across all of our disciplines, to discover what leaders can and must do to make the world a better place,” said Dr. Clint Longenecker, UT professor of management.

Students were invited to participate based on their academic and professional records and the recommendation of graduate faculty. Sessions and business faculty who presented were:

- “Careers in the 21st Century” by Dr. Thomas Gutteridge, dean of the UT College of Business and Innovation;
- “Leading and Developing Yourself” by Dr. Margaret Hopkins, UT associate professor of management;
- “Into the Trenches: Leading Your Team to Great Performance” by Dr. Jenell Wittmer, UT assistant professor of management, and Dr. Robert Yonker, UT associate professor of management; and
- “Leading for Results” by Longenecker.

Participants also learned from UT Head Football Coach Matt Campbell and leading area business professionals, including Joe Feudi, financial services professional with Caputo & Associates, and Randy Oostra, president and chief executive officer for ProMedica.

“With such talented faculty members and key community involvement, including ProMedica’s CEO Randy Oostra as our concluding speaker, the 2012 Advanced Leadership Academy certainly accomplished its goal of fulfilling what is the key College of Business and Innovation goal of developing lifelong leaders for the world of business and, in this case, in other key disciplines across the University,” Gutteridge said.

Participating students agreed.

“The best part of the Advanced Leadership Academy experience was learning from the business college students and professors,” said Kathryn Crawford, a doctoral student in the Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service. “They presented a different aspect to leadership that is more organizational than my current focus on educational leadership. I realize now how much more I have to learn to become an effective leader in an educational organization.”

“I loved Coach Campbell and how he applies leadership to his life, and Mr. Oostra was incredibly down-to-earth, showing us that you still need to treat everyone you meet with respect,” said Laura Braden, who is working on her MBA in human resources.

“We learned about the importance of communication, networking, and how it is important to get results. It was an honor to be invited.”

“The best part of the Advanced Leadership Academy for me was getting to meet and work with graduate students from disciplines outside of business. I had no idea about the great things going on in the medical, pharmacy, education and engineering graduate programs. What an impressive group of graduate leaders,” said Capt. Trent Miller, an MBA candidate who is in the U.S. Army.

Chris Trabbic, a student in the PhD Program in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, said, “My primary training in science includes dissecting hypothetical science proposals, translation of theory into practice, and staying up to date on innovative techniques. The Advanced Leadership Academy was extremely useful because the science was put into perspective. As with any other field, a leader with precise oral communication skills is vital. A leader with emotional intelligence will be rewarded with quality results and hard work.”

“The Advanced Leadership Academy was a successful effort to expand the exposure to broader and practical learning,” said Nick Fasciana, chief financial officer at Pinnacle Technologies and an MBA candidate. “This world-class program completely exceeded my expectations because it not only delivered relevant information designed to enhance my leadership skills, but also provided me an invaluable opportunity to network with senior business leaders in our region. It was an awesome learning experience.”

Photo by Terry Fell

RESPECTED LEADER: Randy Oostra, president and chief executive officer for ProMedica, gave the closing presentation at the recent Advanced Leadership Academy.
Twenty-three members of The University of Toledo Chapter of Pi Sigma Epsilon (PSE), the professional sales and marketing fraternity, participated in the PSE National Conference in Indianapolis in March.

They came home with top finishes in some of the conference's key competitions. In the University Directories Marketing Challenge, the UT chapter claimed second place; in the ADP Marketing Challenge, Jack Powers was on the team that took the first-place prize; and in the National Pro-Am Sales Competition, Brittany Bodi finished in first place among the 88 students entered in that contest.

“The best part of the conference was the competitions,” said Matt Devenport, president of the UT Pi Sigma Epsilon Chapter. “There was a lot of emotion, a real close bond among the PSE members. We came together, and the bonding experience was different than it was in the classroom. We become more motivated to do better, and our chemistry builds success throughout the chapter.

“To prepare for the conference, our chapter held organizational meetings every week to strategize and build a plan about how we would compete. We practiced every week and met with our professors in the Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales,” Devenport said. “There are competitions to select chapters to recognition levels of gold, silver and amethyst, as well as competitions that reflect everything the chapter does throughout the year. We were one of the finalists for the silver level, and even though we did not win that particular award, being recognized as a chapter finalist was an accomplishment.”

UT chapter adviser Dr. Michael Mallin, associate professor of marketing, said, “The weeklong conference provides student members extensive opportunities to learn. There are various events at the conference, including those with chapter officers focusing on marketing and sales training, leadership skill development, professional networking practice, and activities to enhance selling skills.”

“PSE is important and beneficial because it promotes professionalism, exposes the students to recruitment and networking opportunities, and helps them with professional development. It helps members develop good communications skills, to get a job … and you make a lot of friends,” Mallin added.

“The role of the faculty is to be available for our students and to be positive, but the students did the work themselves,” Mallin explained. “Our chapter members did a good job, and I give a lot of credit to Matt for motivating them and leading the team, which positively reflects on the chapter, our Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales, the College of Business and Innovation, and The University of Toledo.”

The chapter paid for their trip through a variety of fundraisers and received additional support from the Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales.

“PSE wants to thank the Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales and The University of Toledo for giving us the opportunity to attend the 2012 PSE National Convention in Indianapolis,” said Devenport, now in his second term as chapter president. “We look to only improve on the success of our chapter in the years to come.”
Register for Rocket Race 5K April 28

By Paul Webb

On your mark, get set, go! Register now for the fourth annual Olde Towne Rocket Race, which will take place Saturday, April 28.

The annual 5K run/walk, hosted by the UT Office of Recreation, will begin at 10 a.m. at the outdoor track on Main Campus. Check-in will start at 9 a.m.

Funds raised by the event will go to support Camp Courageous, a camp for individuals with disabilities, as well as the UT Student Recreation Center’s Leadership Fund, which provides scholarships for students to go to professional conferences.

“We would love to have a big involvement from students in the race,” said Steve Hardy, assistant director of operations and marketing for the Office of Recreation. “It is a great way for students to blow off some steam right before finals week. And with the prizes, everyone walks away with something.”

Winners could receive gift cards or UT gear. There also will be door prizes, and all participants will receive a gift bag.

The race is sponsored by Olde Towne University Square, Dave’s Running Shop and the UT Track and Field team.

Pre-registration is open until the day before the race. Pre-register for $15 at the Student Recreation Center or online at www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/rec/rocketrace/Olde_Towne_Rocket_Race_Campus_5K.html.

Registration the day of the race will cost $20.

Rockets’ Reverse Raffle and Auction to take place May 19

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo Athletic Department’s annual Reverse Raffle and Auction Fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 19, at 7 p.m. in Savage Arena.

The Reverse Raffle is a night of fun, food and games. A limit of 350 tickets at $125 each are sold for the event. Each ticket admits the purchaser and one guest to the event and provides the opportunity to win the $7,500 grand prize or one of many cash prizes or gift items.

Buffet grazing stations, as well as snacks and beverages, will be available throughout the night.

In addition, each purchaser of a reverse raffle ticket will receive six coupons good for six tickets to UT home football games at the Glass Bowl (a $154 value).

The Athletic Department is seeking donations for prizes and auction items. Gift or service donations of all levels are helpful, from smaller prizes for “10th ticket” winners, to larger items that are used for the silent or live auctions.

For more information, call the Athletic Development Office at 419.530.4183 or go to the www.utrockets.com.
The Relevant University’ to air March 27
By Meghan Cunningham

Tune in to “The Relevant University” Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. on AM 760 WJR.

With commencements around the corner, this month Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs, discusses college graduation and what’s in store for the Class of 2012.

In this month’s episode:
• Ohio Chancellor Jim Petro talks about his work to increase the graduation rates among Ohio’s college students and improve the state’s economic future.
• University of Toledo Student Government President Matt Rubin provides a student perspective on commencement activities and the importance of a getting that degree.
• Andrea Koncz with the National Association of Colleges and Employers discusses recent studies showing a positive job outlook for the Class of 2012.
• And Quicken Loans Director of Recruiting Michelle Salvatore shares their efforts to hire 1,400 new employees and the company’s commitment to the city of Detroit.

The University and Detroit’s WJR Radio produce the monthly, hourlong program that explores the critical role higher education plays in our world.
Listen at www.utoledo.edu/therelevantuniversity.

Survey aims to better understand climate of University
By Meghan Cunningham

The University community is being asked to participate in an important survey to gather information about the climate of the institution.

The Campus Climate Faculty and Staff Survey questionnaire, which is voluntary and confidential, is open to all employees at The University of Toledo. The online survey is available at http://vovici.com/l.dll/JGxB6727283E3bYD9U146634J.htm, and respondents are being asked to complete it by Monday, April 30.

“The climate survey provides the University the opportunity to gather important data from employees about their interactions with others on campus,” said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs.

“It also gives us the opportunity to enhance campus-wide understanding and reinforces the University’s commitment to diversity.”

The online survey asks the participants to select their position at the University — faculty, University staff or hospital staff — and answer a series of questions about how they are treated at UT and how they treat others.

The University is striving for an at least 20 percent response rate to gather quantifiable data that can be compared to past surveys. All faculty and staff were sent an email inviting them to participate.

As a way to thank participants for their time, each person who completes the survey will receive a discount coupon worth 25 percent off merchandise at utoledogear.com. Participants also have the option be entered into a drawing to win one of five $100 prepaid gift cards.