

*Working to Support and Enhance the Academic Journey*

## **NEWS & EVENTS**

### **More than 1,200 people hear Hill Harper speak at 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Aspiring Minority Youth Conference**

Scholar, author and CBS drama “CSI-NY” actor, Hill Harper, was the keynote speaker at The University of Toledo’s Office of EXCELlence 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Aspiring Minority Youth Conference on Saturday, January 31, in The University of Toledo Student Union Auditorium. This year’s conference theme was “25 Years Later: Rekindling the Commitment to Education.”

The Office of EXCELlence Interim Director David Young said, “The conference was a tremendous success with estimated attendance at 1,200 plus students and parents. The audience was greeted by city and state officials like State Sen. Teresa Fedor, Councilman Michael Ashford, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Judge Charles Doneghy, TPS Supt. of Schools John Foley and others.” Keynote Speaker Hill Harper received a standing ovation after delivering a remarkable speech on “The Importance of Education.” Following the morning session, the conference delegates were split into two concurrent workshops. Hill Harper sat on a panel along with distinguished EXCEL alums for the student session, designed to motivate students to make plans, become active in the community, and take charge of their futures. The concurrent parent session, moderated by EXCEL Joint Committee member and former TPS Principal Dr. Marie Bush, featured EXCEL alums and EXCEL Joint Committee members speaking to parents and educators about tools to help students effectively channel their skills and interests to achieve their educational and career goals. Following the workshops, Harper signed copies of his book for over an hour before leaving campus. He called TOLEDO EXCEL a “completely unique and wonderful program” and praised The University of Toledo for its 20-year commitment to the program. He promised to talk about EXCEL “all across the country.”

In Harper’s first book, *Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny*, he shares life lessons he learned on the road to his Ivy League education and beyond. His second book, *Letter to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny*, continues to offer words of encouragement and guidance. Hill Harper, one of the core compelling and promising actors of today, boasts a resume in mainstream and independent films, national television, and in literary circles, and is currently one of the stars of “CSI:NY.” His life passions also include mentoring youth and promoting education. He has an undergraduate degree from Brown University and earned a JD in law and government from Harvard. Harper often speaks to young people about the measure of success, how to learn from mistakes, and the value of education.

### **Attendance up 50% for Undergraduate Research Proposal Writing Workshops**

Undergraduate Research Proposal Writing Workshops held January 28 were attended by 27 students at the afternoon session in Sullivan Hall and 9 students at the evening session on the Scott Park Campus. This represents a 50% increase over last year’s workshop, in spite of a 25 cm (10”) snow fall the previous evening that lasted into the day of the workshop.



### **UT on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**

The University of Toledo has been named to the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This selection to the Honor Roll is recognition from the highest levels of the federal government for UT's commitment to service and civic engagement on our campus and in our nation. The President's Honor Roll distinguishes our institution as a leader in community service and service-learning. It will help in recruiting students, garnering additional community partnerships and demonstrating our commitment to strengthening our surrounding community. This is the first time The University of Toledo has been recognized for this prestigious award. A full list of institutions receiving this award can be viewed at the following link: [www.learnandserve.gov/pdf/2009\\_honorroll\\_full.pdf](http://www.learnandserve.gov/pdf/2009_honorroll_full.pdf).

### **600 student + 50 Departments =Major Palooza**

Major Palooza, UT's majors fair, was held on Wednesday, February 4. Career Services and the QUEST for Success Gateway Program collaborated to bring together approximately 600 students, including 120 high school students and a handful of transfer students. There were over 50 departments representing all eight undergraduate colleges, as well as the College of Law and the College of Medicine's Masters Programs. Students received information and asked specific questions to representatives and college advisers. This event is for students who are exploring majors or changing their major. The evaluations indicated that the event gave most students more confidence in declaring or changing their major as well as a better idea of whom to contact if they had further questions. Students also commented on how helpful and informative the people staffing the event were.

### **Studying Abroad in 16 Countries**

For Academic Year 2008 - 2009, UT students participated in programs overseas:

- Students in traditional programs studied in various countries in Europe: Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain; and in various countries in Latin America: Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico. In Asia, students studied in two different sites in China. In Africa, students studied in Ghana.
- Students also participated in direct-exchange programs in Germany, Japan, and England.
- Faculty led programs to China, Greece and Japan.
- Pharmacy students participated in practicum activities in Hungary.
- Law students enrolled in courses in China, Turkey, and Spain.

### **Wednesday...Think "Workshop Wednesdays," Career Services Announces Schedule**

"Workshop Wednesdays" offer something for students at all academic levels; from how to choose or change their major, to professional preparation for their job search. Eight different workshops are offered every Wednesday. Visit the Career Services website to view the "Workshop schedule."

### **Virtual Job Fair**

February is also Collegiate EmployNet month. A virtual job fair will be held from February 2 – 20. Students will be able to offer their resume to employers, all without leaving the comfort of their home or dorm room. See the Career Services website or stop in the office for information.

### **Criminal Justice Alumni Leadership Series**

The Alumni Leadership Series, a collaboration between Career Services, the Student Alumni Association, and Student Involvement, will highlight the major Criminal Justice. Speakers will be at UT on February 17 to talk about careers in the criminal justice field.

### **Peer Networking Association Launched**

January was National Mentoring Month and UT's The Mentoring Collaborative launches the Peer Networking Association recruiting effort to draft peer leaders and peer mentors to welcome new students joining UT in the Fall of 2009. The Mentoring Collaborative welcomes all UT programs to collaborate with them by making students aware of this effort and help them to support incoming freshmen. Contact Sheila Doles at 419.381.3280 or email [sdoles@utoledo.edu](mailto:sdoles@utoledo.edu)

### **Internships and Independent Study Opportunities for Students**

The Mentoring Collaborative is offering internships and independent study opportunities for students to gain service learning and community engagement experience through peer mentoring. Eligibility requires at least a sophomore status with a 2.5 GPA or higher to participate. Upper class and graduate students are welcome and encouraged. Call today, 419.381.3280 or email [sdoles@utoledo.edu](mailto:sdoles@utoledo.edu).

### **uncUT Film Festival to take place April 5**

Who is the next Steven Spielberg, Matt Damon or Angelina Jolie? Come find out! Our students all across campus this spring have the opportunity and equipment to write, produce, direct and act in their own movie about Frosh life here at UT by entering the 4<sup>th</sup> annual FYE film festival. If you know a budding filmmaker, be sure they enter.

In its 4<sup>th</sup> successful year, the event is sponsored by The University of Toledo's First-Year Experience Office. First-year students will have five weeks to write, shoot and edit movies that capture the experience of college freshmen. "Sort of the trials and tribulations of finding your way when you're a first-year student," said Jennifer Rockwood, Director of the First-Year Experience Office.

Take a stroll down the red carpet and attend the uncUT First-Year iMovie Film Festival on Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Doermann Theatre. Come see the funny, poignant and reality bits of the first-year experience at UT. All attendees are eligible for door prizes, such as tickets to Toledo Mud Hens games and gift certificates for restaurants, businesses and hotels. For more information on the free, public event, contact the First-Year Experience Office at 419.530.2330. Also check out past films and find more information at <http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/fye/filmFest.html>

### **Great Cities - Great Service Grant**

The Great Cities Great Service Grant team has started spring semester strong! The planning team has four courses being taught this semester. David Baker is teaching two sections of Theories in Criminal Justice. This course will be focused on chaos theories based in urban communities. The students will be working with Woodward High School students to develop ideas and reflect on their thoughts. Kimberlie Colson is teaching one section of Review of Elementary Spanish. This is the first Spanish course taught at Toledo with a Service Learning component. Students from Colson's class will be collaborating with WHS students to create a recruitment brochure for the Department of Foreign Languages. Paul Wise is teaching two sections of Writing in the Community. Students in this course will be collectively working with WHS students and other high schoolers in the community to highlight some aspects of Toledo that otherwise would go unnoticed. Lastly, a new member of the team, Sujata Shetty is offering the first graduate level course for this grant. This team of graduate students in this Geography and Planning course and WHS students will be checking out the condition of buildings and evaluating their structures in the Toledo area. Sudershan Pasupuleti is the principal investigator in this grant.

## **Academic Rigor Forum**

FYE and the UTLC will be hosting a two day academic rigor and integrity discussion on March 3 and 4 for faculty who teach first year students. As academicians we need to share with students the importance of the honor code of the academy and urge students to raise their level of self leadership and responsibility while in college. Speakers participating in the forum are as follows:

### **Forum on the Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity**

#### **March 3 (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.)**

Luanne Momenee, Learning Enhancement Center  
Jerry VanHoy, Associate Professor, Sociology  
Charlie Blatz, Professor, Philosophy  
Renee Heberle, Associate Professor, Political Science

#### **March 4 (2 p.m. to 4 p.m.)**

Bernie Bopp, Professor, Astronomy  
Matthew Wikander, Professor, English  
Sharon Barnes, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies  
Kathleen Thompson-Casado, Associate Professor, Spanish

*"It can be difficult to translate values into action – but action is badly needed now to promote academic integrity on our campuses." -The Center for Academic Integrity*

## **NEW WAYS OF COMMUNICATING**

### **UTLC Website**

The UT Learning Collaborative has launched a UTLC web site. Visit the site at [www.utoledo.edu/utlc](http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc)  
Feedback can be directed to Director of Learning Collaborative Relations, Cathy Zimmer, at 419.530.3202 or [cathy.zimmer@utoled.edu](mailto:cathy.zimmer@utoled.edu)

### **Parent Video blog launches**

FYE is pleased to present their first video blog for parents, friends and families of UT students. The goal is to create a vehicle along with new *Family Connections* e-newsletter will help us to stay in touch with parents/families. Click here to view [Parent Video](#) .

## **FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS:**

### **Todd Receives 2008 Youth Empowerment Award**

Highlighted in the UT Alumni Magazine, Joel Todd received the 2008 Youth Empowerment Award from the City of Toledo Board of Community Relations this past summer. Todd is a guidance coordinator for the Office of EXCELlence's Upward Bound program.

## **OUTSTANDING STUDENTS and ALUMS**

### **25% of University College Degree Program Graduates Received University Honors**

Out of 188 students which graduated from University College Degree Programs between the Spring, Summer and Fall 2008 semesters, 47 (25.5%) of those students received University Honors of cum laude or higher.

### **Six Students Receive the Edward Shapiro Honors Fellows in Economics**

The UT Honors Program and Economics Department have named six Edward Shapiro Honors Fellows in Economics for the 2008-09 academic year.



Holding their certificates, they are, from left, Anthony Bradfield, Noah Gillespie, Jason Saunders, Constantine Konstandas, Nicholas Jones and Anthony Russo. Also in the photo are Dr. Tom Barden, director of the Honors Program, left, and Dr. Mike Dowd, associate professor and chair of economics.

The Edward Shapiro Honors Scholarship in Economics is a \$5,000 renewable award offered by The University of Toledo Honors Program and the Department of Economics. Current honors students (or high school students who have been accepted into UT's Honors Program) who plan to major in economics can compete for this scholarship. Upon being selected, students become Shapiro Honors Fellows in Economics. Selected students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.6, conduct undergraduate research in the field of economics under the guidance of a faculty mentor from the UT Department of Economics, and complete their honors thesis in an area of economics. The expectation is that they will share their excitement and interest in the study of economics. The scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Edward Shapiro, UT alumnus and economics professor for 22 years in the College of Arts and Sciences, who donated more than \$4 million to the college during his lifetime.

### **S.W.A.T. Makes an Impact**

UT Alumna Christine Endicott participated in S.W.A.T. in 2003 - 2004. She recently sent a note sharing that she "...loved it! I just wanted to thank you. Your class was my most memorable time from college. Seriously, you were used in great ways in my life. Thank you." S.W.A.T. (Student Wellness Awareness Team) is a class composed of dynamic sophomores, juniors, and seniors working together to educate its audiences about various wellness issues through creative, fun, and interactive presentations. The S.W.A.T. Team presents on the following issues and is available to present to any class or student group:

- HIV/STD Prevention
- Binge Drinking
- Healthy Relationships
- Stress and Time Management
- Nutrition and Healthy Weight Control
- Tobacco/Smoking
- Sexual Assault
- Exercise/Fitness
- Body Image



To submit information to the UTLC News send details to [cathy.zimmer@utoledo.edu](mailto:cathy.zimmer@utoledo.edu)